THE TIMES

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Are you bringing up a little despot? The series all parents must read page 17

Jerry, Mick and the kiss 'n' tell ultimatum page 15

30p EVERY WEEKDAY

FREE BOOKS FOR SCHOOLS

Turks seize terrorist as he leaves embassy

Girl sets fire to herself as Kurds protest

BY MICHAEL BINYON AND ADRIAN LEE

A 15-year-old schoolgirl set herself alight outside the Greek embassy in London yesterday as Kurds across Europe erupted in fury at the arrest of the rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

Thousands of Kurds stormed Greek embassies throughout Europe, kidnapped hostages and fought running battles with the police in angry protest at Turkey's dramatic seizure of Mr Ocalan, leader of the PKK Kurdish Workers Party.

In about 20 cities, including a dozen European capitals, frenzied Kurds broke into Greek embassies and consulates in the early morning and barricaded themselves in. Outside, huge crowds scuffled with police and chanted demands for the release of the fugitive terrorist leader, arrested in Nairobi after leaving the residence of the Greek Ambassador.

Outraged Kurdish supporters immediately accused Greece of betraying Mr Ocalan, saying that he had been lured out of the residence by a trick. Athens admitted giving him shelter, but said that he had disappeared on the way to the airport.

Mr Ocalan was flown back to Turkey late last night to stand trial on charges of masterminding the bloody PKK insurrection in south-eastern Turkey that has cost some 30,000 lives over the past 14 years.

In London, Vienna and The Hague yesterday, protesters seized hostages inside Greek diplomatic buildings, including the wife, eight-year-old son and housekeeper of the Greek Ambassador to The Netherlands. In Bonn they also held two people in the Kenyan embassy.

In London, hundreds of angry Kurds gathered in Holland Park, close to the Greek Embassy, which was seized and occupied by about 50 protestors. Police fought running battles with others trying to reach the mission before sealing off the area. Dozens were arrested.



Ocalan: under arrest in Turkey

Nejgla Kanteper, from Wood Green in North London and the daughter of a Kurdish refugee, set herself alight and ran towards the main body of protesters sitting in the road in Holland Park Avenue. She was quickly wrestled to the ground by police and other demonstrators who used coats to smother the flames. Police at the scene tended the burns on her back before she was lifted into an ambulance, defiantly raising her hand in a victory salute and chanting "Long live Kurdistan".

Stuart Wheeler, who witnessed the incident, said: "She took her coat off then I just saw the flames whoosh up. I didn't see her put any petrol on herself. The police risked their lives trying to put the flames out with their jackets."

Despite calls from the PKK for an end to the occupations, by nightfall there was still a tense stand-off at most missions across Europe. In Strasbourg 30 protestors with petrol cans threatened to burn the Greek mission but were ejected.

Details of Mr Ocalan's dramatic seizure in Nairobi were unclear last night. Announcing his capture, Bulent Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, said: "He will account for his actions in front of the Turkish justice system."

Judicial officials said that he would be charged under Article 125 with trying to set up a separatist state — a charge that carries the death penalty. No one has been executed in Turkey since 1984.

The PKK yesterday accused America, Israel and Turkey of a "secret service action" to capture Mr Ocalan. It said that he was in "great danger" and gave a warning of a further violent response if he was harmed. Mr Ocalan said earlier this year that at least 10,000 people in Europe would begin a death fast if he was returned to Turkey to stand trial.

After Mr Ecevit's announcement, Kurdish prisoners in jails began hunger strikes, and one burnt himself to death. The US applauded the capture of Mr Ocalan but denied any direct hand in his seizure. "We're obviously very pleased with the apprehension of this terrorist leader," a White House spokesman said.

The Foreign Office, concerned about the safety of British embassies, said it would not make any statement on the arrest that could be seen as provocative but was "aware" of Mr Ocalan's capture.

Fearless sister, page 2
Leading article, page 19

RICHARD LEWIS



London schoolgirl Nejgla Kanteper set herself alight yesterday as Kurds protested across Europe

Absent Sainsbury 'will be lame duck minister'

BY PHILIP WEBSTER AND NICK NUTTALL

LORD Sainsbury, the Science Minister, was accused of being a "lame duck" last night after announcing that he would leave government meetings whenever genetically modified food policy was raised.

As Tony Blair stood by the former head of the grocery chain, protesting that he was being "hounded" by the Tories over disclosures that he owned a patent connected to biotechnology, the Tories claimed it was "ridiculous" that a science minister had to absent himself from scientific discussions.

At the same time the Government gave the first indications of a shift in response to the mounting public concern over the issue.

In the Commons Jeff Rooker, the Food Minister, ruled out any planting of commercially-grown genetically modified crops this year. Only two weeks ago he said that any new planting was unlikely before the autumn.

Although officials denied any shift of policy, Mr Rooker and Mr Blair repeatedly emphasised the extreme care with which the Government was proceeding and suggested that its attitude would be determined in the light of trials now taking place. Tim Yeo, the shadow Agriculture Minister, said last night: "I welcome this change of tune but it is nothing like far enough."

There was fresh embarrassment for the Government last night when Mr Blair's leading green adviser suggested that emergency measures to deal with genetically modified food which "go wrong" should be drawn up urgently. Sir

Continued on page 2, col 5

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England expects Keegan as coach

Kevin Keegan is expected to be named by the Football Association as the new England coach. The FA is believed to have agreed that the former England forward could also continue to manage second division Fulham..........Page 44

Brown in black

Chancellor Gordon Brown is heading for a large budget surplus: official figures showed that £12.4 billion of debt was paid off in January, a record monthly figure..........Page 23

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Three horses killed in racetrack collision

BY RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT

THREE racehorses were killed in a freak accident at Sedgefield racecourse yesterday after they collided with loose horses running in the opposite direction.

The horrific scenes at the track in Co Durham came as fallers at the first fence in the Red Onion Novices Chase turned and ran the wrong way round the 1¼-mile left-handed oval circuit. They came on a collision course as the remainder of the field approached the second last fence.

Royal Scimitar was killed instantly and Lorcan Wyer, his jockey, was catapulted into the air but escaped with nothing worse than a sore thumb. Floss The Boss and Skane River also died as a total of six horses were brought down, along with jockeys.

Wyer said: "There is always the possibility that something like this will happen here or at Fakenham. It all happened in a split second. I managed to avoid two of the loose horses but I had no chance of missing the other one."

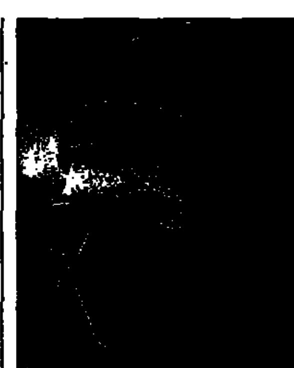
The worst accident since three horses died in last year's Grand National prompted immediate calls for an independent inquiry. "If it is found that horses have been allowed to run on a course that was not fit for racing heads should roll," said John Robins of Animal Concern.

A spokeswoman for the RSPCA said: "We will be making inquiries into this incident concerning the conditions on the course, as we do with any incidents where horses have died as a result of racing."

Robert Earnshaw, a former jockey and the stewards' secretary on duty at Sedgefield yesterday, said: "It is one of the worst incidents of its type I have seen. The stewards are going to forward a report to the Jockey Club with their recommendations as to what can be done to make sure it doesn't happen again. There are two escape routes for the horses but regrettably in this instance they didn't take them."

John Maxse, spokesman for the Jockey Club, said: "No issue has a higher priority with the Jockey Club than the safety and welfare of horse and rider and clearly if there are any lessons that can be learnt from this tragic accident, we will take them on board straightaway. The problem of loose horses on a racecourse is not a new one and has been studied at length. Several suggestions have been put forward and some have been tried."

Racing, page 39



The judge: no holiday

Judge dons Noddy hat

Mr Justice Potts dressed in a Noddy hat when he was led with counsel and a jury of the Central Criminal Court deep into a Belarussian pine wood. Their guide showed them where his village's Jewish population was machinegunned into pits 57 years ago.

The judge had warned the jury in the case of Anthony Sawoniuk, who faces four murder charges, that the trip would be no holiday...Page 3

Triumph for Robbie Williams

BY CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ROBBIE Williams was hailed as a symbol of triumph over adversity last night after overcoming drink and drug addiction to win three Brit Awards.

Williams, 26, won best male singer, best single for his number one hit *Angels*, and best video for his song *Millennium*. His career had plummeted after he left the band Take That.

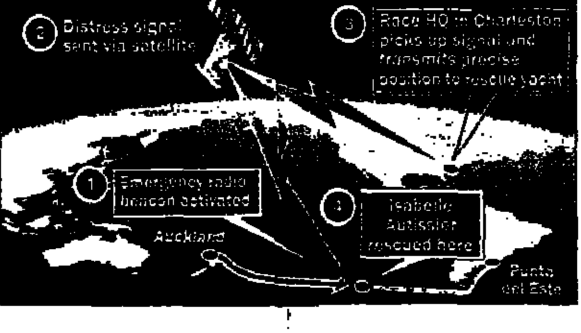
Best album award was won by The Manic Street Preachers, who were also best British group. The Radio 1 DJ Zoe Ball's fiance, Norman Cook, won best dance act and Natalie Imbruglia won two awards. Annie Lennox and Dave Stewart won an award for outstanding contribution to British music and Muhammad Ali was given the Freddie Mercury Award. Des'ree was named best female singer.

Race rival turns back to rescue stricken sailor

BY EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

THE French solo yachtswoman Isabelle Autissier was yesterday rescued by a fellow competitor in the Around Alone single-handed round-the-world race, after her boat capsized in the South Pacific Ocean.

Autissier, 42, raised the alarm on Monday when her 60ft yacht, *PRB*, was about 1,900 miles west of Cape Horn in an area too remote for an airborne rescue. Race organisers in Charleston, South Carolina, decided Autissier's best hope of survival was the Italian sailor, Giovanni Soldini, 32, who was 200 miles north-east of her position. It took Soldini in *FILA* 24 hours to reach Autissier. He was directed by race officials via his on-board satellite communications system. Soldini approached after dark and spotted Autissier's boat almost immediately — a remarkable feat in such a huge expanse of water.



Race officials described Soldini's actions as a "masterful, heroic act of seamanship".

Although Soldini has Autissier on board, he is still in the race, though she must not assist him in handling the boat.

"I'm on an Italian tour now ... and not unhappy about it," Autissier said in a message telexed via satellite.



Autissier: capsized beyond the reach of rescue aircraft

هكذا من الأصل

Rooker makes mincemeat of Tories' gene food fads



Pink with indignation and bearing an unsettling resemblance to a genetically modified potato, Tim Yeo, the Tory agriculture spokesman, demanded that ministers come clean about GM foods. Had the Prime Minister yielded to "pressure from President Clinton, who is known to be close to Monsanto"?

Who's she? MPs giggled. Jeff Rooker, the junior minister who may be a genetically modified bus conductor, and who was leading the Government's counter-attack, kept a straight face. Rooker was magnificent. Rarely has an Opposition been trounced so fast and so comprehensively.

We sketch writers are no more food scientists than MPs, and at the end we were hardly the wiser. But one truth Mr Rooker did lay bare: the Tories have climbed aboard this bandwagon opportunistically and late. Rooker rammed that home. As William Hague and senior colleagues slunk early from the Chamber, even they seemed to acknowledge their humiliation.

The occasion had a Swiftian absurdity ...

Minister: "Tomato paste — September 1994."

Hon Members: "Oh!"

Minister: Soya beans — April and February 1995."

Hon Members: "Ah!"

Minister: "Maize — 1996 and 1997."

Hon Members: "Oh! Oh! *Aaah!*"

Roused to a fury, Mr Rooker bellowed: "My advice on eating raw potatoes? The same as my advice on eating raw chicken. DON'T DO IT!"

For the Tories, Mr Yeo did his best but his problems lay not in his performance but his argument. Framed to justify intelligent concern, the Tory case just about held water. Framed to justify a fit of finger-stabbing outrage, it was ludicrous.

Rooker quickly demonstrated that the Conservative Party seemed to have performed an abrupt U-turn: from an unperturbed acceptance of GM technology in government to a near-hysterical alarm in opposition.

Jeff Rooker is a variable Dispatch Box performer. Incurably earnest and with a short fuse, he sometimes gets into a tangle. But the earnestness pays off in questions — like this — of public trust. Rooker believed and understood what he was saying and it showed.

The Brummie minister became so fired up that he began dropping and inserting aitches almost randomly: "... only after the most *careful* scrutiny of their effects on hh-human 'ealth." A smooth talker would have sorted out his aitches, but in his honest passion Rooker was casting consonants to the winds. Even backbench doubters were won over.

Dismaying his front bench, Ian Taylor, a former Tory science minister, told his party that GM foods had turned us all "into headless chickens". But the power of food to ignite feeling is astonishing. For the first time in living memory Bill Cash (C, Stone) quailed before a threat which did not originate in Brussels. Martin Smyth (UUP, Belfast S) denounced a conspiracy which even he could not blame on the Pope. Speaking for the Liberal Democrats, *Paul Tyler*, a genetically modified cross between the Duke of Windsor and a carrot, blamed *both* the other parties.

A fortnight ago, when William Hague first went ballistic on GM foods, *this sketch* noted that, bizarre as the performance seemed, the Tory Leader might well succeed in starting a food scare.

Now he has. But to start a food scare is to play on the nursery *slopes of* politics or journalism. Anyone can do it. To *stop* a food scare is a Himalayan task. That accomplishment was yesterday Jeff Rooker's.

'Yes' vote raises stakes in Ulster arms stand-off

BY MARTIN FLETCHER, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE *Northern Ireland* assembly last night set the scene for a showdown between Unionism and republicanism this spring by overwhelmingly approving the structure of the new power-sharing executive.

Even as the assembly voted, Gerry Adams was in Downing Street pressing Tony Blair to take the final step of establishing the executive and transferring power from London. He took with him the lever of a loyalist handgrenade in an attempt to illustrate why the IRA would not disarm.

David Trimble, the First Minister, again vowed to block the formation of the executive until the IRA began giving up its weapons. He said that Unionists had "now done everything *we can do*" and the *ball* was in Sinn Fein's court. His slim room for manoeuvre on the issue was underlined by the 29-29 split in the Unionist vote.

Sinn Fein's case was further undermined by the seizure of an IRA arms cache in a house off the republican Falls Road in West Belfast. It included a loaded rifle, ammunition, detonators and home-made exp*losives, and was described by* the RUC as the most significant find in two years.

The assembly voted 77-29 for a 12-member executive on which Sinn Fein would be entitled to two seats. It also ratified plans for a north-south ministerial council, six cross-border bodies, a civic forum and a British-Irish council.

One member of Mr Trimble's Ulster Unionist Party, Peter Weir, sided with the Democratic Unionist Party and other opponents of the Good Friday accord. A second potential defector, Roy Beggs Jr, voted yes only after receiving "concrete assurances" that Mr Trimble would not drop insistence on IRA disarmament.

The result means that Mo *Mowlam, the* Northern Ireland Secretary, can in principle now trigger the so-called d'Hondt mechanism for dividing up the executive's ministerial portfolios between parties on both sides.

She wants to transfer power to the executive on March 10, before the marching season and European election campaigns begin, but is highly unlikely to move until the dead*lock over IRA disarmament* is broken. If she tried to activate the executive without the Unionists' agreement they could easily render it inoperable by refusing to nominate their ministers.

Unionists who voted no argued that last night's vote put Dr Mowlam in charge, and that Mr Trimble would be unable to resist the pressure from London, Dublin and Washington to admit Sinn Fein.

The DUP's Nigel Dodds told Unionists the vote was the "last opportunity they will have to put the brake on IRA-Sinn Fein getting into government without ... dismantling their terror machine".

Mr Adams, Sinn Fein's president, has repeatedly said that *he cannot deliver IRA disarm*ament and that the accord imposes no preconditions on Sinn Fein's admission to government. Speaking outside Downing Street he said the vote meant that the assembly parties had "now done their bit in terms of clearing the last hurdle before the institutions can be put in place, and I urged the Prime Minister to put these in place with all speed".

SINEAD LYNCH



Nejla Kanteper lying on the pavement near the Greek Embassy yesterday as the emergency services go to her aid

'My sister was fearless and passionate about our cause'

Susie Steiner and **Stewart Tendler** on a Kurdish protester's family

THE 15-year-old who set herself alight as part of a Kurdish protest was described last nigh as fearless and angry by her younger sister.

While Nejla Kanteper was being treated for burns at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, Gulsen, 12, spoke of how the family were regularly beaten in nightly raids by Turkish police in their native village in Cyprus. They fled to Britain in 1993.

In the early hours of yesterday Gulsen watched as Nejla, her 20-year-old brother, Ersin, and father, Suleyman, left their home in Wood Green, *North London, for the* Greek Embassy. They had heard of plans for the protest at about 1am, when a broadcast went out on a Kurdish satellite television channel. While the three decided to set off then and there, Gulsen's mother, Kadirye, who speaks no English, stayed at home with her.

"They would have let me go but I was sleeping," Gulsen said last night. "I wouldn't want to go because I'm really scared of it all."

The Kanteper family moved to Britain six years ago from their home in Dipkarpaz, Cyprus, a Turkish region where, according to Mrs Kanteper, beatings from the Turkish police were ministered regularly at night.

It was that experience, said Gulsen, translating for her *mother last night, that made* Nejla so political and so angry. "She has felt very strongly about the whole thing for a couple of years. She is not scared of anything. She is a very loud person."

Nejla's brother, who works in a restaurant, accompanied Nejla in the ambulance to hospital. Both he and her father, who is unemployed and learning English at a Kurdish community centre in Haringey, northeast London, are not believed to have been with the girl when she set herself alight. "They would have stopped her," Gulsen said. "My mother is very upset."

In the past eight years Kurds have grown more militant against Turkish targets in London. Right-wing Turkish groups have retaliated.

In 1991 there were attacks on a Turkish bank in the City of London and the Turkish Embassy in Belgravia. A year later there was another attack on the embassy and the BBC World Service headquarters.

In 1993 a Kurdish refugee trying to get political asylum in Britain set fire to himself in immigration service offices at Croydon, South London.

There were larger, violent clashes with police in 1994 after the European spokesman for the PKK group was arrested under the Immigration Act. In 1996 two Kurdish militants were jailed for four years each after being caught fleeing from an attempt to firebomb a Turkish bank.

Martyrs who fanned the flames of protest

BY ROBIN YOUNG

SELF-IMMOLATION as a means of political protest has become a favoured weapon among Kurds.

In November last year two Kurdish men set themselves on fire in Moscow in protest against the arrest of Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), in Italy. Both survived.

At the same time it was reported that 11 Turkish Kurds attempted self-immolation in the mainly Kurdish region of south-eastern Turkey where the PKK had been leading its campaign for independence.

The most famous self-immolator is Jan Palach, who as a 21-year-old student in 1969 set himself on fire in Wenceslas Square, Prague, in protest against Czech politicians' acceptance of Soviet occupation.



Quang Duc, a protester in Vietnam in 1966

Palach was almost certainly influenced by the scores of Vietnamese monks who set themselves on fire during the Vietnam war in defence of their religious liberties.

In the East self-immolation is more familiar than in the West. It was required of many Indian widows until outlawed, not entirely successfully, under British rule in the 19th century.

In April 1998 Thuptun Ngodup, a Tibestan monk, immolated himself in protest at Indian police arresting demonstrators when a Chinese general visited New Delhi.

A South Korean student set himself on fire in protest against President Kim Young Sam in July 1997.

The Indian cult, Ananda Murga, practised self-immolation in the 1970s in protest against the arrest of their leader Prabhat Ranjan Sarkar on charges of conspiracy to murder former cult members. And at Waco, Texas, in April 1993 the Branch Davidian leader, David Koresh, was alleged to have urged his followers to burn themselves to death.

NEWS IN BRIEF

MPs attack new phone numbers

Plans to force millions of people to alter their telephone numbers this summer four years after the last change were condemned by MPs. The Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee criticised Oftel, the telephone watchdog, for proposing the move without adequately consulting telephone users. The MPs accused Oftel of being "unduly swayed" by operators' claims that technological difficulties prevented them from using existing numbers more efficiently. Oftel said: "If these code changes do not take place London and perhaps other cities will run out of number capacity by summer 2000."

Laser surgery is abandoned

State-of-the-art laser surgery for patients with heart disease has been abandoned after trials at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, *showed that more* patients died after the operation than those given simple medication. The laser operation had been widely acclaimed in America and Europe as a breakthrough in treating patients with a rare kind of angina.

Courts will pay for case delays

People will be paid compensa*tion if courts and judges* are not ready to start trials on time under the civil justice reforms to come into force in April. At a conference on the changes, Sir Richard Scott, Vice Chancellor and Head of Civil Justice, said that if lawyers and litigants were to be held to account for delays and made to pay for wasted costs, then so should the courts.

Progressive Jews redress balance

Britain's progressive Jewish community took the first step to gaining its own "chief rabbi" with the creation of a post of associate president at the Council of Christians and Jews. Jonathan Sacks, the Chief Rabbi who heads the Orthodox community, is the only Jewish president of the council. The progressive community wanted the new post to redress the balance.

Death rate rises for young men

Death rates among young men are getting worse, even though they are falling among almost all other parts of the population. Official figures show that while the number of male teenagers dying in accidents has fallen, they still account for 44 per cent of deaths in the 15 to 19 age group. The increase has been *from* suicides, mental illness caused by drugs or alcohol, or infections.

Irvine defeated in the Lords

Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor, suffered a fresh defeat last night when peers voted against his plan for a Criminal Defence Service that would employ salaried lawyers. The House of Lords voted by 189 votes to 134 to back a Liberal Democrat move against the service, which lawyers feared would be a first step towards a public defender system.

Passengers leap from jumbo jet

Passengers forced open the door of a Boeing 747 jumbo jet about to get ready for take-off from Heathrow and leapt out in panic after spotting flames *emerging from* an engine. Boeing and Malaysian Airlines are investigating the incident last September, which was revealed in a Department of Transport air accident report published yesterday. Two people suffered minor injuries.

Sainsbury 'a lame duck' minister



"Typical - now he won't touch a thing"

Continued from page 1

Crispin Tickell, chairman of the Government's panel on sustainable development and former ambassador to the United Nations, said he was concerned about the threats posed by the new technology to human health and the countryside.

He said he did not want genetic engineering of foods and plants to lead to a repeat of epidemics like Aids where the emergency response had been "distressingly ad hoc ... and panicky".

And the scientist at the centre of the controversy broke his silence to claim that his fears would be proved correct.

Dr Arpad Pusztai, whose research suggested the growth and immune systems of rats fed genetically modified potatoes suffered, spoke after a gagging order was lifted.

Dr Pusztai said he felt bitter at his treatment and hoped a Commons Select Committee would vindicate his concerns.

The scientist — who suffered a heart attack amid the intense pressure — warned the public: "I would not eat these potatoes myself."

Lord Sainsbury, the third minister with previous business links to come under pressure during this Parliament, issued a lengthy statement explaining how he had placed his interests in a blind trust and how when he became a minister he said how he would stand aside from decisions or discussions having any effect on the Sainsbury company.

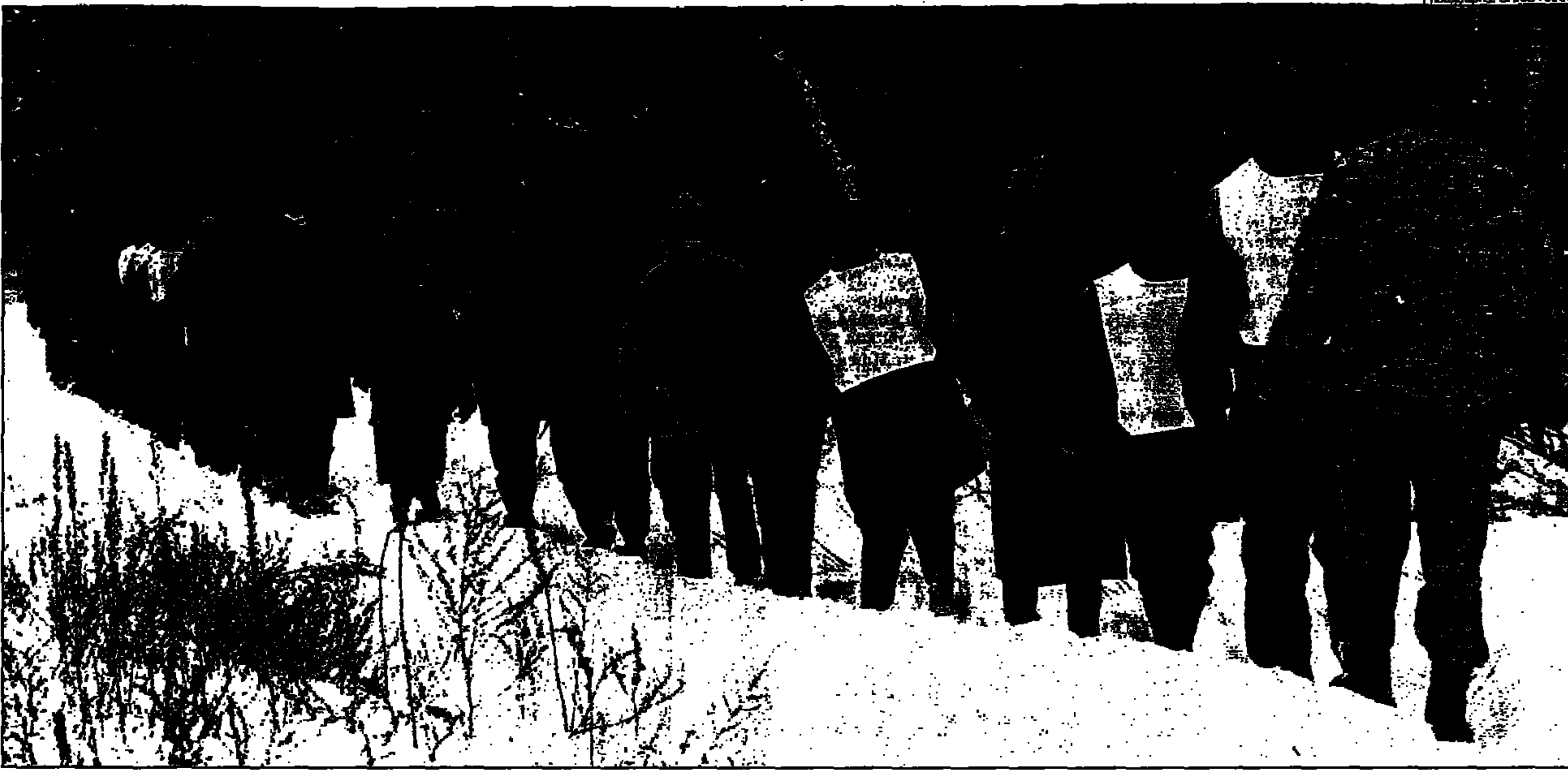
He said that he had not taken part in any government decisions or discussions relating to genetically modified food policy. He disclosed that on one occasion when GM policy was discussed at the Cabinet Committee on biotechnology he had left the meeting.

Trail deep in snow and past dread

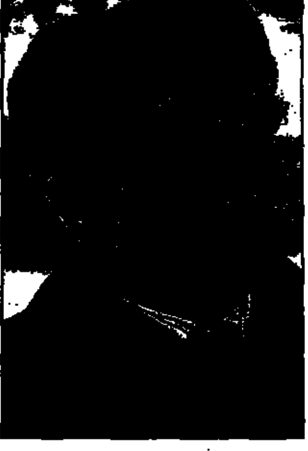


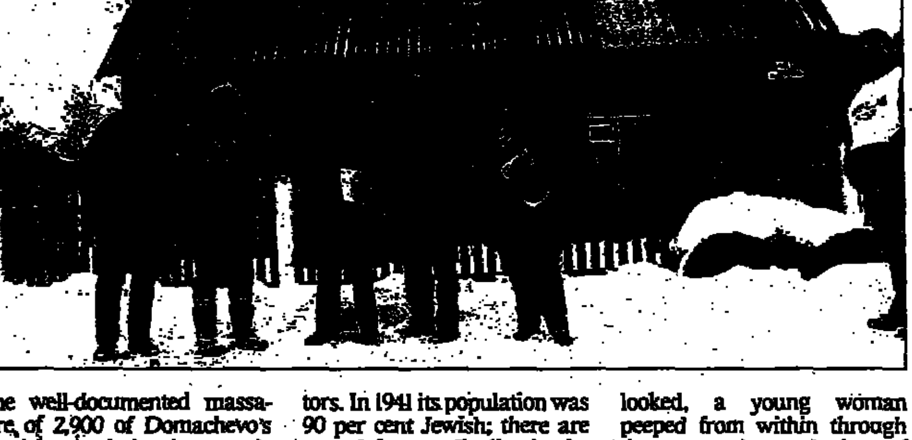
Alan Hamilton joins an Old Bailey jury, judge and lawyers on a 1,200-mile foray into the bitter cold of Belarus, as they seek the truth about a day of Jewish slaughter in 1942

Photographs: CHRIS HARRIS



The jury at Domachevo wood yesterday to hear testimony from Fedor Zan, below left. Others there included, below from left, Mr Justice Potts, William Clegg, QC, and John Nutting, QC





DEEP in a pine wood near the Belarussian village of Domachevo stands a stark obelisk flanked by two unmarked mass graves. Its Russian inscription is dedicated to "the victims of German fascist terror, 1941-45". Soviet memorials never mention Jews.

Along a track covered by snow, Fedor Zan, a small, wizened man of 75 in a grey raincoat and brown fur hat, yesterday led the judge, counsel and jury of Britain's Central Criminal Court, well wrapped against the sub-zero cold, to a site in the middle of the wood. His village's former Jewish population of 3,000 were led here, stripped naked and machinegunned into pits.

The area was different then, with scrubby bushes instead of stately Scots pines and birches, and there was no snow on the ground. But atrocities committed 57 years ago still haunt what would otherwise be a Christmas-card scene.

Mr Zan was once a school friend of Anthony Sawoniuk. Now he is a key prosecution witness in the Old Bailey trial of the village boy who, the Crown says, grew into a policeman exercising a ruthless authority over Jews and gentiles alike, and who today faces four murder charges.

> The jurors consulted their maps and copious notes. Fedor Zan blew his nose and dabbed his eyes

Mr Justice Potts had warned the jury back in London that its unprecedented visit to a foreign country would be no holiday. Nevertheless, its sombre guided tour of alleged past brutality had its jovial tinge. Although still formally a court in session, the participants were able to abandon the usual rules of dress.

The judge wore a bright red, fleecy Noddy hat with earflaps. John Nutting, QC, leading counsel for the prosecution, wore a long brown suede coat and puffed a pipe. William Clegg, QC, for the defence, sported a bright Austrian skiing pullover with attached hood. The jurors, 1,200 miles from the comfort of Court No 12, were huddled in subfusc anoraks, leopard-skin coats and moonboots.

Mr Zan, who was flown to London last week to be put under oath, met the court's members at the edge of the village. He was instructed by the judge to indicate four locations. First, he pointed out the house of his sister, whom he had been visiting on a September evening in 1942. The modest cottage, with its corrugated roof, still stands, decorated yesterday by 3ft icicles.

The party walked into the woods along the track which Mr Zan says he used on his way home that night. At times the jurors stopped and consulted each other. They wanted to ask the judge a question: the foreman raised an umbrella in the air to indicate that Mr Justice Potts's attention was required. A gust of chilly wind blew lumps of snow from the branches. Half a mile into the woods, the court stopped again. Here, Mr Zan indicated, was the point at which he heard cries and screams, leaving his homeward route to investigate. The snow was deeper now, the path less trodden, and the court followed him in single file. The jury consulted its maps and copious background notes; Mr Zan blew his nose and dabbed his eyes. In a deeper part of the wood, he stopped again. There, he indicated, was where he had hidden. He fought his way through the leafless bushes and took up a position 20 yards from the track. A court usher in fluorescent yellow vest followed him to mark the place.

"Is that the place?" the judge called, and the interpreter translated.

"Da, da, da, da," Mr Zan shouted back rapidly, almost as though imitating machine-gun fire. He returned to the track while, one by one, the 12 jurors stumbled through the undergrowth to observe the spot.

From this hiding place, Mr Zan claims, he watched as Mr Sawoniuk machinegunned 15 Jewish women and girls directly into a ready-dug grave. The judge said that he would not ask Mr Zan to estimate the distance at which he first heard the screams.

He was then asked to walk to where the shootings had occurred, while the jury remained on the track. Accompanied by an interpreter and court official, he walked a considerable distance further into the wood, beyond the Soviet memorial, and raised a hand twice to indicate the claimed sites of two graves. Allied aerial photographs from 1942 indicate that there were few trees then; yesterday the jury could barely see Mr Zan.

He was thanked and allowed to go home, at least until he reappears as a witness in London. But he was asked if he could wait by the roadside near his house so that he could be filmed and photographed; the judge reminded reporters and photographers that the court was technically sitting throughout its walk in the woods, and that normal court-reporting restrictions — which forbid identifying witnesses or jurors — still applied.

The court walked the short distance to inspect the memorial and its adjoining pits, one of which has a substantial pine in the middle, an indication that the tree was not there when it was dug in 1942. The two mass graves are those of the well-documented massacre, of 2,900 of Domachevo's Jewish population by squads of the SS *Einsatzgruppen*, aided by local collaborators.

But the charges against Mr Sawoniuk relate to later search-and-kill mopping-up operations, when those who had escaped the initial slaughter were hunted down and eliminated.

Domachevo is a village of green wooden houses, with as many horses and carts as tractors. In 1941 its population was 90 per cent Jewish; there are none left now. Earlier in the day the jurors had been taken on a conducted tour of the village, the better to understand the locations from where witnesses will say they saw key events.

First they saw Mr Sawoniuk's former house, which he had had dismantled in the Jewish ghetto and rebuilt in a more favourable location in Sverdlovsk Street. As they looked, a young woman peeped from within through the net curtains, and a knot of curious old women gathered in the street outside.

With Mr Nutting and Mr Clegg as their guides, they moved on, past the large blue wooden Russian Orthodox church, to the police station, destroyed by partisans and since rebuilt, where Mr Sawoniuk was stationed. It was from here, the Crown alleges, that Mr Zan's aunt and family were led by Mr Sawoniuk to slaughter on suspicion of collaborating with anti-Nazi partisans in the forests.

With silent villagers watching from street corners, the jury was shown the perimeter of the old Jewish ghetto, where a population of nearly 3,000 was corralled behind barbed wire, eventually to be led out in groups and systematically murdered. Nothing remains of it now and Pushkin Street, the so-called road of death down which Jews were led to the woods and to the machine-gun, is a peaceful side-street of cottages and gardens.

Much else has changed. The jury was shown the cinema, once the Roman Catholic Church from which worshippers were ordered out to watch Jews being led to their deaths, punched and rifle-butted on their way.

Time and a foot of snow today blur the picture of total recall. When the trial resumes in London, however, the jury will have a sharper image of four alleged atrocities among thousands committed in one of the darkest hours of European history.

BBC blows the whistle on sheepdog series

By Claudia Joseph

THE BBC is to drop *One Man and His Dog*, the long-running television series about sheepdog trials.

In an attempt to soften the blow to its rural audience, the corporation has said that there will be a special farewell edition before the end of the year.

The BBC said: "*One Man and His Dog* has been a special part of BBC2 for 23 years but after much thought we feel it is time to take a new look at the way we approach country matters. The programme will, therefore, not return in its current form."

Robin Page, who has presented the series for the past four years, urged the show's 1.8 million viewers to write to the BBC calling for the decision to be reversed.

He said he had not been given a reason for the decision. "It's typical of how arrogant, stupid and out of touch senior executives are," he said. "They don't seem to have any concept of anything outside London. They are obsessed with things that are supposed to be trendy.

"This is going to upset a lot of country people. It's another kick in the teeth for the rural part of our society. Their livelihood is already under threat and now their entertainment is under threat as well."

One Man and His Dog, which was created by Philip Gilbert, the television producer, was first screened in 1976 as a one-off programme but returned the next year by popular demand.

Presented by Philip Drabble, with Eric Halsall as commentator, it became a hit by BBC2 standards, attracting an audience of almost 8 million in its heyday. In 1981, 7.8 million watched the series, which was screened midweek at 9.25pm.

By August 1990, when Katy Cropper became the first woman to compete in the series, winning the semi-final with her dog Trim, the show had been moved to weekends.

Four years later, Mr Drabble retired after 18 years, to be replaced by Mr Page. In 1996 Mr Halsall died and Gus Dermody joined the show. Mr Page, who farms 130 acres, believes that the show has not had a chance since being rescheduled last year to Saturday afternoon, when farmers are working.

Scheduled against *Grandstand*, it has been attracting an average 1.6 million viewers but this falls during live sporting events and was just 700,000 during the Five Nations rugby tournament.

Mr Page said: "BBC2 has been trying to cut the show's audience by showing it on a Saturday afternoon. Its natural audience can't watch it."

Mr Dermody said: "I meet numerous farmers and shepherds annoyed by the BBC's attitude towards *One Man and His Dog*."



Page says dropping the series will upset country folk

Landlord 'provoked savage beating'

By Simon de Bruxelles
West of England Correspondent

A FORMER magistrate "encouraged" two tenants to inflict a savage beating on a man they caught breaking in, a court was told yesterday.

David Latham, 52, who owned the flats in Gloucester, had been telephoned by another resident concerned at the treatment being meted out to Mark Robinson, 26. But when the landlord arrived he said that he recognised him as a drug addict and paedophile. Ian Dixey, for the prosecution, told Gloucester Crown Court that the remark led to Mr Robinson receiving injuries that left him unable to talk or walk properly.

Mr Dixey described how Mr Robinson was caught by Michael Ryland, 33, and Russell Lomax, 27. The court was told that Richard Davidson phoned Mr Latham after being told not to call the police by Lomax and his victim.

Mr Latham denies false imprisonment and helping Mr Robinson's attackers by disposing of blood-stained clothing. Mr Ryland denies grievous bodily harm and false imprisonment; Lomax has previously pleaded guilty to the same charges. The trial continues.

Hunted foxes 'face death by stress'

By Claudia Joseph

ANTI-HUNT campaigners claim that they have the first hard evidence to prove that foxes can die from stress after a cub rescued from the hounds by saboteurs was examined by a vet.

The National Trust and the Forestry Commission banned stag hunting on their land two years ago when a study found that deer suffered stress during the chase. Now field sports opponents claim that foxes experience similar feelings.

Richard Edwards, the vet who treated the cub, which has been named Copper after the policeman's helmet that protected it from the hounds, believes the fox would have died from the stress it suffered, if it had not been treated. He discovered that Copper displayed all the signs of intense trauma, including a racing heart, no colour in its gums and blood in its urine, as well as being bitten.

He said yesterday: "Never have I seen a dog come in this profoundly shocked, given the extent of the injuries. I don't believe the injuries were life threatening in themselves. What was life threatening was the severe amount of shock present in this animal. Had it not received treatment it would simply have died."

Copper was being chased across common land by members of the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Hunt, who met at Upperton, West Sussex, when Andrew Wasley, a saboteur, intervened and the fox escaped into a rabbit hole. The fox eventually backed out of the hole and another saboteur covered it with her coat until it was taken to the vet.

Patrick Bateson, Professor of Ethology at Cambridge University, who carried out the study on deer for the National Trust, told Radio 4's *Today* programme yesterday: "I regard this as the first hard evidence that I have come across that foxes are hunted to the point where they are very severely stressed. I regard this as an important step in getting evidence that would lead one to believe that fox hunting is unacceptable."

However, Bob Baskerville, a vet and member of the Countryside Alliance, suggested that the saboteurs had caused the stress. "There is a great deal of evidence throughout all species that handling and transport induces stress," he said.

GM firm faces £20,000 fine

Scientists defend industry as Monsanto appears in court, reports Nigel Hawkes

MONSANTO will be charged today with not taking care of a crop of herbicide-tolerant oilseed rape.

With a second defendant, Perryfields Holdings, the gene modifying food company faces a maximum fine of £20,000 at Caistor Magistrates' Court in Lincolnshire for contravening the conditions under which the crop was being grown.

The defendants are charged with allowing a 6-metre "shelter belt" of unmodified oilseed rape to be thinned in one area to 4m. The shelter belt was to prevent seeds from the genetically modified rape escaping, perhaps to hybridise with a wild relation of rape and produce herbicide-resistant weeds. This has long been one of the concerns raised by environmentalists over such crops.

There was no evidence of damage from Monsanto's breach. The crop was destroyed and the area will be monitored for two years to study any longer-term consequences.

The company expects that the case will provide another stick with which to beat the biotechnology industry. "It has reached hysterics," a Monsanto spokesman said.

Yesterday an eminent group of plant scientists, led by Professor Ray Baker, chief executive of the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, defended the industry: "It is vital to increase the size of the experiments, to learn how these crops affect farming practice."

Dr Phil Dale, of the John Innes centre in Norwich, who has studied the spread of pollen from herbicide-resistant crops, said: "There is no incidence of weeds becoming tolerant from conventionally bred herbicide-resistant crops."

Professor Ian Crute, of the Institute of Arable Crop Research, said that such weeds already existed. "They have evolved naturally in response to herbicide use," he said.

Some evidence suggests that wild plants that acquire the herbicide-resistant gene are far from "superweeds" anyway. Dr Joy Bergelson, of the University of Chicago, studied one such plant and found that it died out in five generations. Producing the herbicide-tolerance protein left it weaker than neighbouring plants and it soon succumbed.

Dr Colin Merritt, of Monsanto, said that traditional plant breeding was more, not less, dangerous because instead of a single gene being transferred, dozens or *hundreds* were transferred. Often such cross-breeds involved the use of wild relatives to gain hybrid vigour.

Then there really was a risk of transferring weedy qualities to plants, he said. *Compared with that*, genetic engineering is a scalpel rather than a sledgehammer.

A second concern of *environmentalists* is crops so clean that wildlife has nowhere left to flourish. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, said: "Nature is taking a hammering from intensive farming and the introduction of genetically modified crops may push more species closer to the edge."

This outcome is not inevitable. In a field of wheat or barley, weeds are already rare because farmers spray before crops emerge. Using herbicide-tolerant crops would let them spray less often or even allow the weeds to grow before spraying.

Professor Baker believes that we are suffering the aftermath of BSE, which has sensitised the public to the unintended consequences of intensive farming and caused a loss of respect for scientific expertise.

Confused callers given little comfort

By Elizabeth Judge

THE phones were ringing and the freshly trained operators were sharing their new-found knowledge with callers from all over the country. Sainsbury's genetic modification helpline had been launched.

From a small room in Manchester *yesterday*, the supermarket chain sought to reassure its customers. *But the operators sounded* as confused as the people they were trying to advise.

One struggled as he tried to describe what genetically modified food was. "It's, erm, well . . like, they do it with soya," he offered helpfully, adding: "It basically means that the people *growing the crops* use less herbicides so it makes life easier for them. But I'm no scientist."

A woman colleague faltered as she gave her definition: "It's like em . . . when you add something to something to help it grow." She reached for an example: "It's like paste, you know, when you add stuff to food to hold it *together?*"

The helpline was set up after Sainsbury's general information line was flooded with calls about genetically modified food. Fifteen operators were transferred to Altrincham to cope with the demand and they answered 200 calls in the first two hours.

Mike Conolly, director of customer relations, said: "We pride ourselves on giving our customers clear information."

The operators, however, did not appear to have an agreed line on safety. One said cheerfully: "As far as Sainsbury's is concerned, it's completely safe." Another was more cautious: "It's up to you, we give the advice but you have to make up your mind."

The helpline — 0500 301010 — is open 8am-6pm Monday to Friday and 10am-5pm on *Sundays*.

Peer with taste for science and politics

By Mark Inglefield and Jill Sherman

LORD Sainsbury of Turville, the minister who has been attacked over his links with genetically modified food, developed his interest in science while at Cambridge in the 1960s.

He had gone up to read history but was sidetracked by the work of the Nobel Prize-winning scientists Crick and Watson, who had made *ground-breaking discoveries* about DNA. Excited by this, he switched to psychology.

Since then he has immersed himself in science. He said recently that he dreamt of his "fairy godmother turning him into a Nobel Prize winner in plant genetics". He is highly knowledgable on plant biology as well as neurophysiology.

Yet on leaving university he did not pursue a scientific career. *Instead he* entered the family firm and quietly followed his other great passion, *politics*.

He joined the Labour Party in the 1970s and even produced a pamphlet for the Fabian Society on partnership between government and industry. "I was basically new Labour before new Labour," he said recently.

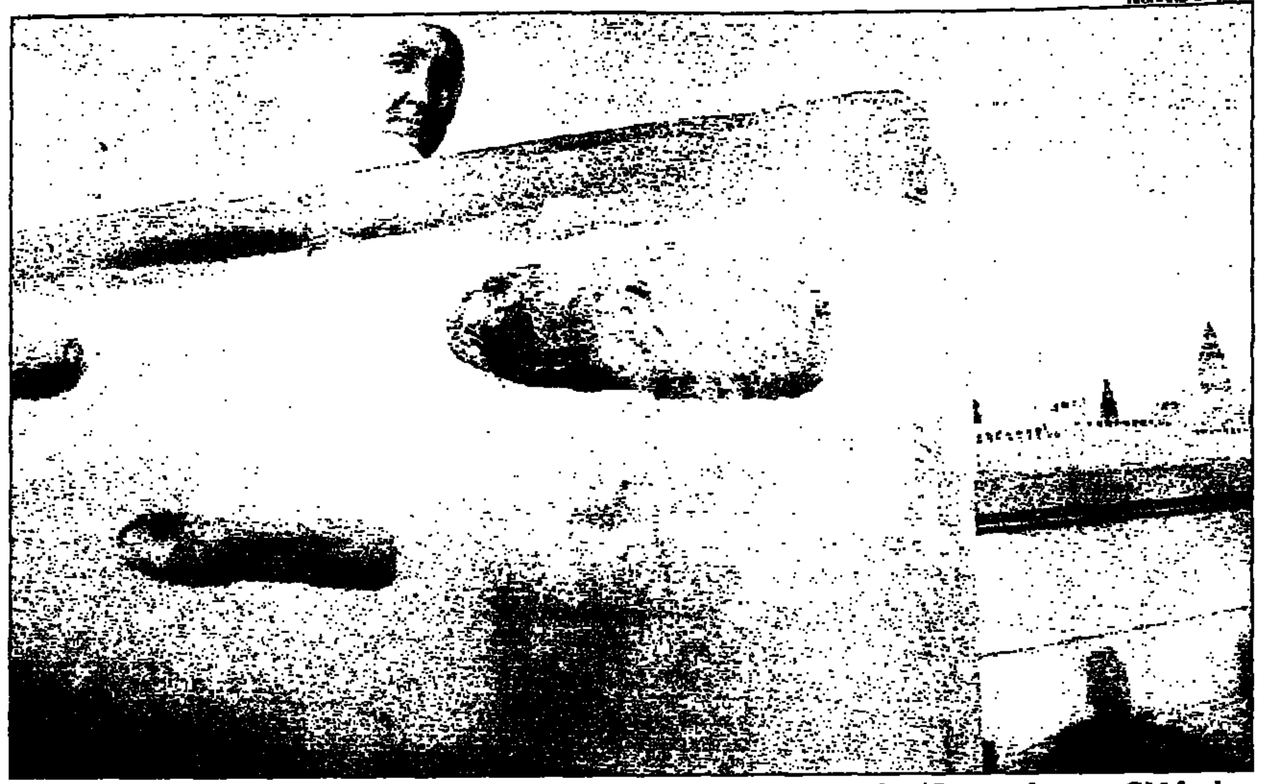
But as the party slipped more to the left he joined and helped to bankroll the SDP. He returned to Labour after *Tony Blair became leader* in 1994 and was made a Labour peer shortly after the last general election. He was brought into government, along with Geoffrey Robinson and Lord Simon, because of his knowledge of business.

During his six years as Sainsbury's chairman, until 1997, he was a powerful advocate of genetically modified food, which he sincerely believes will reduce supermarket *bills and improve food quality*.

But the Tories claim that his advocacy of GM food experiments — *his charitable trust*, the Gatsby Foundation, has spent millions of pounds on researching plant biology — is motivated by more than intellectual curiosity. Although he placed his £1 billion shareholding in the family supermarket chain in a blind trust on becoming a minister, his equity, the Tories say, *will* soar if GM products reach their potential.

Yesterday a spokesman for Lord Sainsbury said that as the minister had no knowledge of what was in his blind trust he could not be accused of being able to influence those concerns. He had resigned from the Gatsby Foundation on joining the Government, although he still made regular donations to the organisation, and had told it in July that he no longer wished to be informed *about which projects it* was funding.

RICHARD CANNON



Protesters in London yesterday, with vegetables frozen into a block of ice, calling for a five-year freeze on GM food

Adviser who minces no words



Sir Robert May

By Nigel Hawkes
Science Editor

SIR ROBERT MAY, the Government's Chief Scientific Adviser, prefers to work mostly behind the scenes. That has nothing to do with bashfulness, as was demonstrated yesterday in a bravura performance on Radio 4's *Today*.

Of the controversy over feeding experiments with a genetically modified potato alleged to have harmed rats, he said: "*If you mix* cyanide *with* vermouth in a cocktail and find that it is not a good for you, I don't draw sweeping conclusion that I should ban all mixed drinks."

He dismissed Lord Sainsbury of Turville's potential conflict of interest as Science Minister by dismissing him altogether. "Sainsbury plays no part in discussions on Government policy on GM foods," he said. "With all due respect to *David Sainsbury, he is the* junior Minister for Science."

In conversation, the Austral*ian-born scientist*, who has held three chairs, in three different subjects, on three continents, makes free with vividly demotic language.

Sir Robert, 63, is critical of the coverage science gets in the media, saying that most scare stories are the result of journalists getting it wrong rather than poor government leadership. Yesterday he refused to give any snap answers. There was a whole *range of complicated* questions over the use and development of GM food and crops. "They cannot be answered *in* a soundbite, 'Is it safe?' "

Rainbow coalition calls for freeze

By Joanna Bale

THE Townswomen's *Guilds* and Friends of the Earth are not usually perceived as natural *bedfellows but so wide*spread is the concern about genetically modified food that *they have joined* a national campaign against it.

The two groups are part of the Five-Year Freeze Campaign, a 29-strong alliance announced yesterday to press for a five-year moratorium on the development and introduction of GM foods. Other members include the Soil Association, the Islamic Foundation for Ecology and Environment, and the Catholic Institute for International *Relations*.

Campaigners in chemical warfare suits unveiled a 3ft ice *cube, containing mutated fish* and maize, opposite the Houses of Parliament yesterday to draw attention to potential risks of genetic modification.

Helena Paul, of the Third World pressure group Gaia Foundation, who is chairwoman of the campaign's steering committee, said: "So many opinion polls kept reflecting unease with genetic engineering that we decided to make this opinion more visible by forming the campaign.

"We all agree that there has *been no real process of public* information. It is being driven too strongly by finance and the imperative to get things into the shops."

Oedipal fury drove son to murder

Psychologist compares killing to Greek tragedy, reports Paul Wilkinson

Kathleen Geldart: shared shopping and cinema trips with son

THE son of a former Tory mayor was convicted yesterday of murdering his mother in an "explosion of emotional violence" that was likened to a Greek tragedy.

Simon Geldart, 18, was ordered to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure for battering to death with a wine bottle the mother with whom he had an Oedipal-type relationship.

Paul Geldart, who saw his son sentenced, had made a television call for the return of hanging. The former JP had also accused Tory ministers of being soft on criminals and volunteered to birch young offenders himself. He refused to comment on the sentence yesterday, referring inquiries to the publicist Max Clifford. Asked why he was involved with Mr Clifford, he said: "I am not doing it for the money. I know the reasons why I am doing it and that is what matters."

Mr Geldart was condemned by his wife's sister, who also said that her nephew should have received the death penalty. "Simon and my son were like brothers but I still believe in a life for a life," Angela Hutchinson, 43, said.

Referring to the link with Mr Clifford, she said: "It is very upsetting and something the rest of the family knew nothing about."

Teesside Crown Court was told that Geldart, who was 17 at the time of the murder last March, killed his mother, Kathleen, 46, because he knew that she would refuse his request to use her car. The jury was told that Geldart, an only child, had been given every opportunity and support by his parents, even after they divorced in 1995 and his father married a 23-year-old Tory worker.

He was 13 when his father first left home and an already close relationship with his mother, a shopworker, became closer. She had needed fertility treatment to conceive and had been the boy's comforter while his father was a strict disciplinarian. Mother and son went shopping and to the cinema together and he bought her expensive pottery.

Christopher Green, a forensic psychiatrist and expert on matricide, said the killing was like a scene from a Greek tragedy. He concluded that Geldart had suffered a "catathymic crisis", as portrayed in Greek mythology. "Essentially you have a son trapped in a close relationship with a mother he cannot break away from to become a man," he said. "He is trapped as a child and this results in a sudden explosion of emotional violence."

> ‘You have a son trapped in a close relationship with a mother he cannot break away from to become a man’

The five-day trial was told that Geldart's life had been crumbling despite his apparently stable surroundings. His parents did not know that he had dropped out of college. He mistakenly believed that his girlfriend was pregnant and the day before the murder had been sacked from his part-time restaurant job.

On the night of the murder, the prosecution said, Geldart wanted his mother's car to meet a friend. He emptied the contents of a wine bottle before going to her bedroom, where she was dozing. Geldart told the court: "I don't know what happened next but I remember I was hitting my mum. I put a pillow over mum's head because I didn't like what I saw." He said that he wept and said, "I'm sorry, I love you" as he hit her several times about the head. He rummaged through her bag and took the car keys after trying to wipe her blood from the walls.

Geldart, from Darlington, denied murder because he said it was not his intention to kill his mother, but the Crown refused to accept his plea of guilty to manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.



Simon Geldart: told mother he loved her as he killed her

Policemen cleared of being drunk on plane

By Russell Jenkins

A POLICE officer and his son who is also in the force were acquitted yesterday of being drunk on board a transatlantic flight. However they could lose their jobs after the judge branded their behaviour loud, bawdy and objectionable.

Inspector David Perrett, 49, his son Richard Perrett, 27, a constable, and Peter Beck, 55, a pub landlord, were discharged from the dock but Judge Ensor demanded tougher penalties and longer sentences for drunken air passengers. He also called on airlines to stop plying passengers with alcohol on long-haul flights.

Manchester Crown Court was told that the men, all from Halifax, West Yorkshire, who were returning from a golfing holiday in Florida, were served several gins and whiskies and then shared a litre bottle of duty-free gin. They became aggressive and abusive.

Judge Ensor refused a request for costs to be paid from the public purse, landing the men with a bill estimated at about £10,000. The two police officers now face an internal disciplinary hearing.

□ A man attacked fellow passengers on a jumbo jet and smashed an inside window after drinking three double whiskies and taking a Valium tablet, Uxbridge magistrates were told yesterday. Lee Thresher, 29, an electrician, pleaded guilty to endangering the flight. He will be sentenced next month.



David Perrett faces disciplinary hearing

Road and air rage take a room at the hotel

By Shirley English

TRASHING a hotel room, swearing at staff or picking a fight with a waiter used to be the preserve of the rich and famous. Now the trend for behaving badly appears to have filtered down to the ordinary man and woman. No longer satisfied with shouting abuse at fellow motorists or air travellers, the public is taking its frustration out on hotel staff.

According to a conference organised by Strathclyde Police in Glasgow yesterday, hotel rage is the latest manifestation of what psychologists see as evidence of a breakdown in social behaviour.

Hoteliers claimed their staff were increasingly having to cope with abusive and violent guests. Recent incidents included a barmaid having a glass smashed into her face after she refused to serve a customer and a fight involving 100 banqueting guests which "took half a small police force to bring to order".

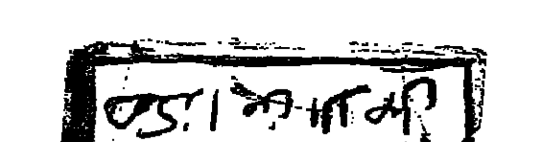
Michaela Loughney, a representative of Hotel Watch, a group that monitors behaviour in Glasgow, said: "At my hotel I have witnessed physical assaults, armed robbery and have been threatened myself. People come to hotels and think they are anonymous and believe they can behave any way they like."

PC Michael Greville, of Strathclyde Police, said there were no exact figures but on anecdotal evidence the problem appeared to be getting worse. "It is not just the punch in the face, it is the threats and intimidation staff suffer."

Bill Fox, whose company, Maybo, specialises in personal safety, was brought in by Strathclyde Police to advise hoteliers at the conference yesterday. He said the difficulties experienced by hotel staff were no different to those encountered by workers in other jobs in the service industry. "What people are saying now is that it's not acceptable and we are going to do something about the problem."

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Abortion rise is linked to Pill scare

By Ian Murray, medical correspondent

THE health scare four years ago over the contraceptive Pill is still causing a crisis of confidence among women, with the number of abortions continuing to rise, according to official figures released yesterday.

The figures show that many women remain clearly worried about the Pill and are prepared to risk an unwanted pregnancy rather than take it.

For five years before the 1995 scare the abortion rate fell but it has increased steadily for all age groups between 14 and 49 ever since, growing by 4 per cent last year alone. One pregnancy in five is now deliberately terminated.

Karen Dunnell, editor of *Health Statistics Quarterly* — a new publication from the Office for National Statistics, said that the rise in abortions was puzzling. "The conception rate has stopped going up and has now levelled off but the abortion rate goes on

"I think there is a general feeling that the Pill scare caused a crisis of confidence among women in methods of contraception and that will not go away. It may be one of the reasons that larger numbers of women are deciding to use abortion rather than the Pill."

The scare began in October 1995 after reports of clinical trials suggested that the latest type of oral contraceptive contained a type of progesterone that doubled the risk of blood clots forming in the veins.

Tens of thousands of the three million women who take the Pill in Britain stopped doing so overnight, with the result that there were 23,000 extra pregnancies over the next nine months and 10,000 of them were ended by abortion.

Even though later research has shown that the Pill is not a health risk, the conception rate has never fallen back to the level it was before the scare and the proportion of abortions has grown. There were 179,700 terminations in England and Wales in 1997, compared with 177,500 in 1996 and 163,600 in 1995.

Just under 21 per cent of all pregnancies are now ended by abortion — 2 per cent more than in 1995 — and there are 4,000 more conceptions per quarter than in the three months immediately before the scare. The abortion rate is highest among 16 to 19-year-olds, with 26.7 terminations for each 1,000 women in that age group. The rate among those under 16 — the age of consent — is now 6.1 per 1,000, against 3.5 in 1971.

Close on 120,000 terminations a year are carried out on women in the 20 to 34 age group, almost three times as many as in all the other age groups combined. About 10,000 abortions a year are carried out on women coming from abroad, compared with more than 32,000 in 1971.

Life, the anti-abortion pressure group, blamed government policies for the continued rise in terminations. Angela Corless, the group's spokesman, said: "Abortion kills unborn children. Many of these aborted babies are able to feel pain and some of them are old enough to live outside the womb . . .

"Abortion is a deplorable act. This 'service' is sold to women in a sophisticated way, is readily available and very well funded."

MRS JOLLY'S ANSWER TO THE MILLENNIUM HYPE

These are the words to Through the Darkness of the Ages, written by Hilary Jolly. The music was composed by Paul Bryan.



Through the darkness of the ages,
Through the sorrows of the days,
Strength of weary generations,
Lifting hearts in hope and praise,
Light in darkness, joy in sorrow,
Presence to allay all fears,
Jesus, you have kept your promise,
Faithful through two thousand years.

Bounty of two thousand harvests,
Beauty of two thousand springs:
He who framed the times and seasons
Has vouchsafed us greater things.
Word of God who spoke creation
Speaks forgiveness, speaks to save,
Gathers still his ransomed people
In the life he freely gave.

Countless flowers have bloomed and withered,
Countless noons are sealed in night,
Shattered thrones and fallen empires,
Realms and riches lost from sight.
Christ, your kingdom still increases
As the centuries unfold:
Grain that fell to earth and perished
Has brought forth ten thousandfold.

Master, we shall sing your praises,
Man of sorrows, God of power,
For the measured march of seasons
Shall at last bring in the hour
When, as lightning leaps the heavens,
You return to lead us home:
You have promised, "I am coming."
Swiftly, our Lord Jesus, come.

ANTHONY UPTON



Mrs Jolly with her prize at St Paul's yesterday

Amateur's hymn earns top praise

Ruth Gledhill meets the inspired cleaning lady who has won a millennium competition for a royal service

A CLEANING lady has won a competition to write a hymn for the new millennium. It will be sung by congregation and members of the Royal Family at St Paul's Cathedral.

Hilary Jolly, 52, a widow with two children, wrote *Through the Darkness of the Ages* for the competition organised by the cathedral. More than 550 writers and musicians from around the world, many of whom have had hymns published, submitted entries.

Composers and writers submitted their tunes and texts separately. They were asked to write to a set form and metre, so that all tunes and words matched. The hymns were judged anonymously.

Mrs Jolly's words, which have won her a cut-glass rose bowl and £750, have been set to the winning tune by Paul Bryan, director of music at St John's College School, Cambridge. The hymn will be included in St Paul's service on Sunday, January 2, one of the four main millennium acts of worship in Britain on that day. Each will be attended by members of the Royal Family, although it has not yet been announced which the Queen will attend.

Mrs Jolly, from Cambridge, a part-time domestic and church cleaning lady, is the daughter of a Methodist mother and a Plymouth Brethren father. She did not become a Christian until her mid-thirties after "one of those Damascus Road experiences we're told not to expect".

She described her experience of composing hymns: "Walking my dog in the green places by the river on the edge of Cambridge, with my head full of Scripture and music, juggling rhymes and wrestling with St Paul to turn his more prosaic pronouncements into poetry, has become life's greatest pleasure."

Her view of the millennium celebrations are less enthusiastic. "I am quite frankly sickened by the millennium hype that surrounds us. I think it is pagan and most unpleasant."

She singled out the Dome for particular criticism. "It is a temple to some of the least pleasant things that humanity comprises. I particularly dislike the fact that it seems to have as its centrepiece a giant human figure. The millennium is about man, it is not about God."

The competition was organised by Canon Michael Saward of St Paul's, the author of 80 hymns. The words and tune composed by the two runners-up will be included in a service at the cathedral on Saturday, January 8, arranged for young people, the voluntary sector and Londoners generally. The winning entries and runners-up are on the St Paul's website: *http://stpauls.london.anglican.org*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Marine is stripped of his medal

A Royal Marine who kicked and punched a comrade at the funeral wake of a young corporal was fined £1,000 and stripped of his good conduct medal yesterday. John O'Connell, 40, now a civilian warehouseman, was a Warrant Officer Class I and the Marines' most senior bugler at the time. He lost his temper when a friend, while larking about, dropped a tie pin made in memory of those killed in the IRA bombing of the RM band's barracks at Deal, Kent. O'Connell admitted assault before a court martial.

Lure for students

British universities are trying to boost their share of the lucrative Australian postgraduate student market. The British Council has launched a campaign in Sydney aimed at increasing the number of fee-paying Australian students by 70 per cent in the next three years, to more than 3,000.

Car plates blitz

Police are to crack down on motorists who customise their car number plates, making them difficult to identify. Fines of up £1,000 could follow a warning. Lord Whitty, the Roads Minister, said: "These number plates are illegal and can hamper law enforcement."

Balloon delay

The launch of the all-British round-the-world ballooning attempt has been delayed until this morning, leaving more time for their only rivals to catch them up. Andy Elson and Colin Prescot discovered problems as their 191ft balloon was inflated on a golf course in Almeria, Spain.

Cocaine mishap

A girl aged three ate cocaine that she thought was sherbet after it was hidden in a discarded fridge outside her home in Newcastle upon Tyne. Hospital tests revealed no lasting ill effects. A couple unknown to the family were later remanded in custody on a drug-dealing charge.

Home from home

Housebuyers are spending up to a week in their cars for the chance to save £15,000 on a family home. The queue outside the sales office on a former Royal Navy housing estate at Crownhill, Plymouth, stretched 200 yards yesterday although the sale does not begin until Saturday.

CORRECTION

A caption to a photograph (February 15) of a rally in Jerusalem should have described those attending as orthodox, not secular, Jews.

Meningitis boy's parents may sue

By Joanna Bale

THE parents of a boy who died of meningitis are considering legal action after he was sent home twice by doctors who diagnosed influenza.

Robbie Kennedy, 9, fell ill within minutes of arriving at his father's house after a football training session. Derek Kennedy, 34, an advertising agency manager, telephoned his GP but was told nobody could visit for three hours.

He and his estranged wife, Becky, 33, were so worried that they took Robbie to the Riverside clinic in Ipswich, which offers an out-of-hours service for local GPs.

Mr Kennedy said: "He was delirious with fever, had cold hands, a stiff neck, a high temperature and would not settle. The duty GP said he had all the signs of meningitis but it was very unlikely because Robbie was able to bend his back forward. He said it was more likely that he had flu and advised us to give him paracetomol, put him to bed and wipe him with a sponge. We asked if we should take him to hospital but we were told not to."

He said his son began to deteriorate rapidly after returning to his home in Rushmere, near Ipswich, on Friday. "I called my wife again and we contacted the clinic, which advised us to bring him in at 2am. He was examined by a different doctor but she would still not refer him to hospital.

"The doctor told us to put him to bed. He was lying dead in bed when my wife checked on him at 8am on Saturday."

David Cocks, chief executive of Suffolk Doctors On Call, whose Ipswich base is at Riverside clinic, declined to comment on Robbie's death. He said: "We are a co-operative service representing 309 GPs in the county who take turns to be on call out of hours. All patients are seen by GPs."





Winter in paradise? No thanks

We'd rather stay in Yeovil, say workers offered Bahamas trip. Simon de Bruxelles reports



GKN Westland's factory in Yeovil: management is finding it hard to entice staff away

GIVEN the choice between the palm-fringed beaches of the Bahamas and a wet winter in the West Country, most people would not think twice. But 19 technicians with Westland helicopters have turned down the chance to exchange the grey skies of Yeovil in Somerset for three months on an island described as a tropical paradise.

The technical and support staff were members of a 32-strong team due to depart last weekend for extended trials of the firm's new EH-101 Merlin helicopter. The 13 who went will spend three months on the island of Andros, which boasts eight hours sunshine a day and a February temperature of 25C. The island is famed for its powder-white beaches, its unique wildlife including iguanas and exotic birds, and its 140 miles of unspoilt coral reef. Back home in Yeovil, where the average February temperature is 8C, there is swimming in the municipal pool, the wildlife consists of stray dogs and urban foxes, and the only reefs are the rusting shopping trolleys in the River Yeo.

The EH-101 Merlin: lack of testing staff

GKN Westland had hand-picked the support staff for the anti-submarine training and weapons trials due to take place on a US Navy weapons range. The members of the Manufacturing, Science and Finance union were offered a 10 per cent "hardship" allowance and given a brochure outlining their job and the working conditions. This gave a warning that the sojourn in the Bahamas would not be a holiday. Support staff would be sharing quarters at the US Navy base on Andros and it pointed out that because there is no public transport on the island there would be little opportunity for sight-seeing.

One engineer said: "It sounds to me if we would be fried in the sun or eaten alive by jelly fish. It may sound great with all those beaches and coral reefs but we could be working 12-hour days and sleeping two in a room."

Terry Stone, the MSF's representative at GKN Westland, said: "This is certainly not a holiday. It is three months with pretty sparse facilities. We are in negotiations about the best way to solve this problem but if I was asked there is no way I would go. I don't like flying for starters and I am not too keen on boats." A spokeswoman for the Bahamas Tourist office said Andros was one of the most beautiful and least developed islands in the region.

She said: "Andros is paradise. It has some of the most beautiful beaches. It is a wonderful place to go snorkelling and scuba diving. I cannot imagine why anyone would not want to go to Andros, even to work, because when you finished your shift it would be lovely to relax there.

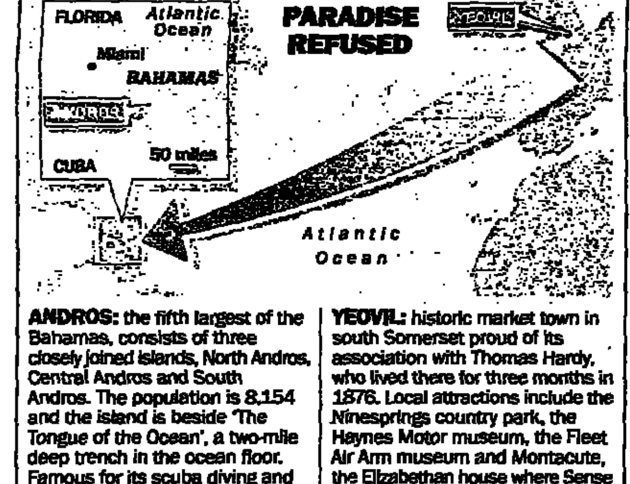
"The nightlife in Nassau is only a 15-minute flight away and surely being in the Bahamas now must be better than being in the UK."

Chris Loney, GKN Westland's public affairs director, said: "The situation won't affect the development and introduction programme. I can understand some of the reasons for not going, they don't want to share rooms because of a lack of privacy. But there is not a lot we can find in the way of alternative facilities at the base. The options open to us now are to look for staff who want to go or to adjust the premium to make it satisfactory for those who won't go.

"We have been in discussion on the terms for some time but there are still 19 who are unsatisfied with the premium and conditions offered to them. It does seem like a great job and I think if I had the chance to go I probably would. The idea of getting a suntan in February is very appealing but it is horses for courses really and everybody is different."



Not that tempting: the white beaches and eight hours of sunshine a day on Andros



Couple sue over two failed vasectomies

By Paul Wilkinson
North West Correspondent

A FATHER of three who had two more children in spite of two vasectomies is suing the hospital that carried out the operations.

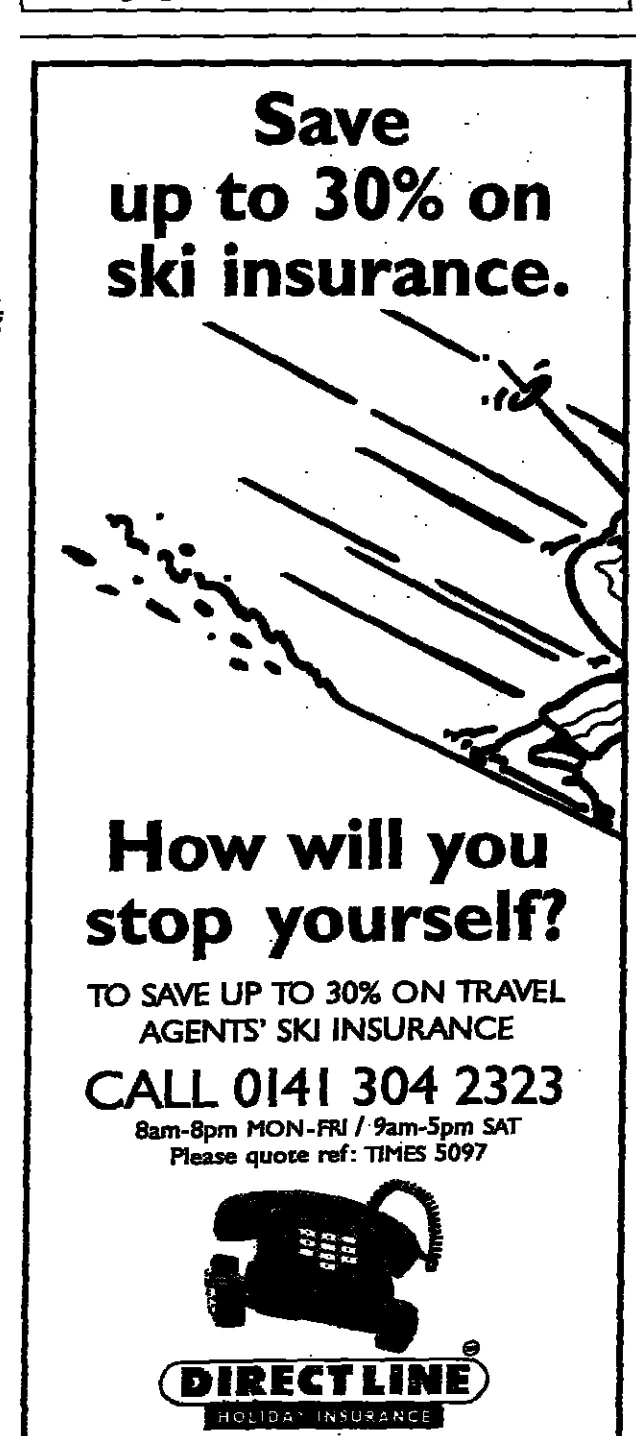
Thomas Brennan, the consultant who performed both operations, said the chances of it failing were about 3,000:1 but it was unheard of for it to fail twice. "To my knowledge this has never happened," he said.

Yesterday John Pickett, 47, a computer programme manager with BT, and his wife, Pauline, 41, a clinical psychologist, brought an action at the High Court in Leeds for compensation against St James's Hospital, Leeds. They want the money to provide care for Louise-Charlotte, 7, and Emily, 4, born as a result of the failed vasectomies. The couple, from Roundhay, Leeds, have another three daughters of their own and an adopted son. Mr Pickett would not accept that Emily was his until tests proved it.

The hearing continues.







BA frying the flag

BRITISH AIRWAYS is cooking up a plan to open a chain of restaurants!

While travellers used to in-flight meals might scoff at the departure, BA are sure it will take off.

The airline has hired Roy Ackerman - owner of London's posh restaurants Chez Nico and the Gay Hussar - to help it into the down-to-earth food and drink market.

BA is well on the way to finalising plans for a 15,000 sq ft pilot scheme in London's former County Hall, and is considering opening other restaurants around the country. It hopes to give [illegible] dishes whose [illegible] into Britain on a [illegible] earlier [illegible].

One project insider said: "It would be great to know that the lobster you are eating in London was flown in from New England that morning."

Bosses are hoping the project will feed some much-needed cash into the airline.

Last week BA nose-dived into the red for the first time since privatisation in 1987 by reporting losses of £75 million for the last three months of 1998.

Daily Star 15 February

Restaurants by BA!

What next?

The King Herod Nursery School?...

The Robert Maxwell Pension Fund?... or perhaps...

The Bill Clinton Finishing School for Young Ladies!

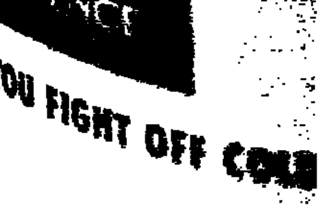
Airlines and Good Food have always been a contradiction in terms. Research has shown that people don't like airline food. So given a choice, why would anybody pay good money to eat food prepared by British Airways?

To fly an airline that does not serve food, in the air or on the ground, and is willing to pass the savings on to the consumer, visit our website.



www.easyJet.com



Police finger the Stone Age potter

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE cast of a Neolithic finger has helped a museum to solve a 5,000-year-old mystery: Stone Age man's fingerprints were the same as our own.

The discovery would not have been possible without the help of the City of London Police. They were called in to help the Museum of London's inquiries into a sizeable fragment of pot that entered the museum's collection in 1914 after it was dredged up from the Thames near Mortlake, to the southwest of the capital.

The pot's Stone Age maker had decorated it with crescent-shaped indentations around the rim by prodding a finger into the wet clay. When experts took a cast of the holes with silicone rubber, they found a fingerprint and the impression of a particularly thick and badly chipped nail.

Michael Crockett, the police fingerprints officer, said: "This is so far away from my normal sphere of work, which is trying to chase criminals. To find something left 5,000 years ago is extremely rewarding. To find any fingerprint gives you a buzz."


Michael Crockett, the fingerprints officer, with the pot

The structure of Neolithic fingerprints, it emerged, was no different from our own, with ridges flowing from one side of the finger to the other.

Simon Thurley, the museum's director, said the fingerprint provided another clue as to what prehistoric man looked like. What we could learn from skeletons was limited because so few of the bones had survived. "Did their flesh look like ours? What did their fingernails look like? This puts the flesh on the bones."

The pot — on display at the museum until Sunday — may have been made for domestic use. Jon Cotton, curator of prehistory at the museum, said that because it was found in the river, it may have been tossed into the water as a sacrificial offering. "Pots were also often broken and it is thought that this may have been done on purpose to remove it to the spirit world."

He added that the fingerprint discovery "opens up another avenue of inquiry", prompting researchers to rethink the image of Neolithic man as primitive.

Such pots were built of ropes of clay joined together and perhaps decorated by more than one member of a family: they might have been passed around a camp fire to while away an evening. Unlike this example, the decoration was usually made with sticks or bones.

Although the police used a high-intensity light source to raise the ridges on the surface, there was not enough information to form any picture of the individual. The small size of the nail and the print suggest that it may have been made by a woman or a child.


STUART CONWAY
The silicone rubber cast showed that fingerprints have not changed in 5,000 years

PC 'hit to floor' at Lawrence inquiry

A POLICE officer told a court yesterday that he was punched to the ground as members of the Nation of Islam tried to storm the Stephen Lawrence inquiry last year.

PC Stephen Dukamp said they attempted to force entry to the inquiry building on the day five men suspected of being involved in the teenager's death were due to give evidence. As police struggled to keep order in the foyer there was a short-lived "explosion of violence".

PC Dukamp told Southwark Crown Court in London: "At least three of the Nation of Islam came on top of me. I felt a punch in the shoulder followed by several other blows to my head and body. I was then punched to the floor. Another officer to my left was being punched."

The officer said he was able to arrest his attacker, Rasaki Yesufu-Muhammad. "I repeated to him that he was under arrest for assault and violent disorder." Mr Yesufu-Muhammad, from Northolt, West London, denies affray on June 29 last year. The case continues.

Triads are cashing in on credit card fraud

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CHINESE triad gangs are being linked to an explosion in credit card fraud. Losses involving British cardholders jumped from £9.6 million in 1994 to £2o million last year.

Details taken from cards used in shops or restaurants in Britain are sent to the Far East in minutes and transferred onto fake cards. The fakes are used on the same day.

Sophisticated fakes carrying details of foreign consumers are also brought into Britain and account for a further £13 million a year in losses, which have to be met by the credit card companies.

Couriers known as "mules" carry the forged cards into Britain. They are controlled by a senior member of the gang known as a "jockey" and are sent on shopping sprees to buy luxury goods that are exported to the Far East for resale.

Wayne Smith, head of the National Criminal Intelligence Service specialist crime unit, said yesterday that detectives had traced gangs moving across Europe buying designer goods and jewellery. Triad members had also been found in Britain using specialist equipment to make fake cards.

Hotel will score softly with fans of United

BY RUSSELL JENKINS
NORTH WEST CORRESPONDENT

THE television chef Gary Rhodes is a big Manchester United fan. But he baulked at the prospect of serving the club's own-brand champagne and red wine in the brasserie that bears his name at the official Manchester United hotel, which opened yesterday.

Likewise the 111 bedrooms of the three-star-hotel, newly completed at a cost of £5 million at Water's Reach, only a free kick away from Old Trafford, are mercifully free of Eric Cantona portraits or other United-related themes.

The average business traveller could be forgiven for thinking he was staying at any other modern, comfortable, mid-price rival. The Quality Hotel, Manchester, is not even named after United.

But they should be warned that it is likely to be fully booked either side of match days by supporters who want to wake up and see the towering north stand from their bedroom window. The hotel, 25 per cent owned by the club, is already heavily booked, at £98.50 for an executive twin room, for tonight's Premiership clash against Arsenal.

Pro-euro Tories boosted by poll

By James Landale
Political Correspondent

BREAKAWAY pro-European Tories could win seats in this summer's Euro-elections after a MORI poll showed that a pro-single currency Conservative grouping could secure about 11 per cent of the vote.

Under the new system of proportional representation being used in eleven multi-member regions, this would be enough votes for the group to secure at least one seat in each region where they put up candidates.

The research was commissioned by Brendan Donnelly and John Stevens, two MEPs who resigned from the Tory party last month to form the Pro-euro Conservative Party.

Some 52 per cent of respondents said they would vote Labour, 26 per cent Tory. But when asked how they would vote if breakaway Conservatives formed a pro-euro party, only 20 per cent said they would back William Hague; 11 per cent said they would vote for the pro-euro party.

Labour 'torn apart' by Welsh feuding

Senior MPs move to stop leadership battle turning into civil war, report Valerie Elliott and Roland Watson

SENIOR Labour MPs yesterday moved to prevent the Welsh party descending into civil war after the result next weekend of the bitterly divisive ballot on who should head the Cardiff assembly.

The group of leadership loyalists urged activists to bury their differences after Saturday's decision as one leading MP said the party had been "torn apart" by the campaign between Alun Michael and Rhodri Morgan.

It emerged last night that if he wins, Mr Michael will move immediately to offer his rival a job in the Principality's new administration. However, the Michael camp was hit by last-minute jitters after concerns that the GMB's expected support would fail to materialise. Mr Morgan's supporters were claiming strong support from GMB members in local consultations.

The manoeuvring paved the way for an edgy final 48 hours' campaigning before the result is officially declared. The divisions have been emphasised by charges that Mr Michael, the Welsh Secretary and Tony Blair's favoured candidate, is being imposed by the Labour leadership.

Welsh party grandees — Paul Murphy, the Northern Ireland Minister, Kim Howells, Trade and Industry Minister, Alan Howarth, Minister for Arts, and Don Touhig, chairman of the Welsh group of MPs — called for unity. "We hope that the party will accept the result on Saturday. When the result is known we have to pur this leadership contest behind us and concentrate on winning a Labour majority in the assembly," they said.

The statement was also signed by the MPs Sir Ray Powell and Llew Smith. A similar exercise by North Wales MPs was led by Barry Jones and Gareth Thomas. The moves were seen as a sign of the divisions. One senior loyalist said: "The party has been torn apart. It has been personally vitriolic. Alun Michael, if he wins, has a very big job to do in trying to build up the grass roots." Mr Michael's supporters believe their man is shading the race, but Mr Morgan's camp point out that the great unknown in the electoral arithmetic is the constituency section, making up a third of the final result. Polls show it is running three-to-one in favour of Mr Morgan.

However, Mr Michael was hanging on the GMB result, with Mr Morgan's supporters claiming that members had supported him by four-to-one in regions where there had been a ballot.

Although the votes are not binding on the GMB leadership, there were signs last night that Alan Garley, the GMB regional secretary, may delay the result until Friday. There was even speculation that the union, which represents 6.2 per cent of the final vote, could abstain, which would be a severe blow to Mr Michael.

Mr Morgan was buoyed by votes from a branch ballot of the shopworkers union USDAW, and backing from the Transport Salaried Staffs Association and the builders' union, UCCAT.

John Shortridge, 51, director of economic affairs in the Welsh Office, was yesterday named as Permanent Secretary to the assembly.



Tony Banks, the Minister for Sport, competing in a pancake-tossing race in aid of Rehab UK, a charity for the disabled, in Westminster yesterday

£30m to upgrade casualty units

By Jill Sherman
Chief Political Correspondent

MORE than £30 million is to be spent on hospital casualty departments to shorten waiting times, improve privacy and security and buy modern equipment, Tony Blair announced yesterday.

One in three accident and emergency departments are to get grants from the Department of Health's £1 billion modernisation fund, which is also funding the nurses' pay award. An experienced consultant with expertise in A&E services will also be appointed to lead a team spearheading a national drive for improvements in all casualty departments.

Visiting North Hampshire Hospital in Basingstoke yesterday, the Prime Minister said the money would go on 80 different schemes in 70 hospitals, including better facilities for children, for resuscitation and reducing the number of patients forced to wait on trolleys for treatment.

Beware tax returns by politicians

Peter RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Taxes and truth seldom go together. Figures are distorted, claims exaggerated and the underlying tax and spending dilemma facing all governments is ignored. So when the Tories launch a campaign calling for honesty in taxation, scepticism is in order.

Nonetheless, Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, has hit one of his two targets, while curiously ignoring another. Mr Maude argues that Labour gave a misleading impression of its tax plans before the last election. Gordon Brown's repeated pledge that Labour would not raise the basic and higher rates of income tax, and would not extend VAT, allowed him plenty of leeway on other tax rises, as a number of us pointed out at the time.

Claims by Tony Blair and the Chancellor that they had "no plans to increase tax at all" and "our proposals do not involve raising taxes" may have been technically correct since firm plans did not exist, apart, mainly, from the windfall levy on utilities. But Mr Brown and his advisers knew before the election that other tax increases were likely, if not certain, to be needed, and they did disguise their probable intentions.

Since May 1997 we have had the tax on the dividend income of pension funds, reductions in mortgage tax relief and the married couples' allowance (carrying on where the Tories left off), bigger rises in excise duties than had been previously planned, and increases in taxes on business. Mr Maude has a fair point in describing these as stealth taxes, though Mr Brown might regard this as a compliment.

The Tories have gone on to argue that, as a result, the tax burden is rising quickly under Labour. The burden, defined as net taxes and social security contributions, is set to increase from 35.4 per cent of national income in the last Conservative year of 1996-97 to 37 per cent in 2001-02. But according to the Red Book at the time of the last Conservative Budget in November 1996, the share was projected to rise more, to 38 per cent in 2001-02.

This does not, of course, mean that Labour has somehow been more successful in holding the tax burden: instead, its increases have been offset by the buoyancy of national income. All this shows how tricky it is to hold down the tax burden. Mr Maude argues that "one of the great mistakes of the last Conservative Government was to fail to explain vigorously enough that there is also a strong social case for lower taxes. If people are taxed less, they are able to do more, not just for themselves but for their families and their communities."

But how? It is no good willing lower taxes without saying how the state is to become smaller. Which services and welfare commitments are to be shifted to the private sector? At present, Labour pretends that public services can be improved without raising the taxes of ordinary people (when they are, in fact, being raised by stealth), while the Tories pretend it is possible to have lower taxes without cutting back on core public and welfare services (when the tax burden is very hard to cut).

Curiously, Mr Maude has not yet made much of the redistributive aspect of Labour's policies. Mr Brown's various tax increases, coupled with abandonment of universal benefits, and the introduction of student fees, have shifted money from the middle class to expand help for the poor. But no Chancellor, or Shadow Chancellor, is every really candid about taxes.


A poster of Abdullah Ocalan is hung out by Kurdish protesters occupying the Kenyan Embassy in Bonn

Turks inherit Ocalan dilemma

FROM ANDREW FINKEL IN ISTANBUL

THE anger of PKK sympathisers in Europe contrasted with the stunned jubilation inside Turkey that the country's Public Enemy No 1 was now under lock and key. But Abdullah Ocalan remains the world's hottest potato and Ankara may now find itself confronted with the very dilemma that persuaded European capitals to keep him at arm's length.

Mr Ocalan will face trial in Turkey for his leadership of a bloody insurrection that the authorities say has cost nearly 30,000 lives. While many of Turkey's estimated 12 million Kurds may have no sympathy for these violent methods, the judicial proceedings held under the glare of international publicity will evoke deep passions.

There has not been an execution in Turkey since 1984, but the judiciary will come under pressure to make an exception. The authorities will be damned for making Mr Ocalan a martyr if they hang him and accused of caving in if they do not.

"He was a headache for the Italian Government and he is going to be one for us too," said a senior Turkish Foreign Ministry official in a reference to the crossfire that confronted Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, when Mr Ocalan was in Italian custody.

Such pessimism was not the immediate view of Bulent Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, who yesterday broke the news himself. Turks go to the polls on April 18 in a hard-fought contest between at least seven political parties — including one with a Kurdish nationalist tinge. A few extra percentage points in the Government's popularity that the capture is bound to bring may make all the difference to the political fortunes of Mr Ecevit.

Turkish pressure was largely responsible for forcing Mr Ocalan to abandon his long-term headquarters in Damascus at the end of last year and then to flee from Moscow. This strategy appeared to have backfired when Mr Ocalan went to Italy with the apparent consent of the Government. Ankara's fears that the PKK was winning international credibility and making the difficult transition from "terrorists" to "freedom fighters" appeared to be coming true.

But Mr Ecevit's quiet diplomacy appears to have succeeded in preventing this, where the outrage and threats of economic sanctions issued by the Turkish Government he replaced had failed. And in the end the Kurdish leader found no safe place to hide. The US, which brands the PKK as a terrorist organisation, also played its role. Washington sees Mr Ocalan as a destabilising influence not just on its ally, Turkey, but also on the Kurdish community under US protection in northern Iraq.

Even so, Turkey's allies, including the US, have consistently urged Ankara to get on with political reforms that would allow greater minority rights for its Kurds and deprive the PKK of its moral ammunition. The official Turkish response has always been that it could not make concessions that would be perceived as a sign of weakness.

Turkey's treatment of its famous prisoner will now come under intense scrutiny. Mr Ocalan is not, however, the first senior PKK leader to find himself behind bars. Last year Turkey detained Semdin Sakik, the organisation's principal field commander. Some of the subsequent confessions were leaked to the press, including a less than credible admission that the PKK was responsible for the assassination of Olof Palme, the former Swedish Prime Minister.

It seems almost certain that Turkey's intelligence forces will try to use the time in the run-up to the trial to discredit the PKK further and drive a wedge in the growing divide reported between Mr Ocalan and those of his supporters still under arms. The Turkish Army, too, can be relied upon to press the advantage against a highly hierarchical organisation that has now been deprived of its head.

If Mr Ocalan's detention really does bring the fighting in the southeast of Turkey to an end, then the country will indeed have something to celebrate.

Leading article, page 19

ANDREAS GEBHARD / EPA


A Kurdish activist is arrested at the Greek consulate in Frankfurt

Greeks admit hiding rebel Kurdish chief in embassy

Athens red-faced after fugitive is captured by Turkey, writes John Carr

THE Greek Government yesterday was forced into an embarrassing admission that it had given secret diplomatic shelter to Abdullah Ocalan, leader of the Kurdish guerrilla group PKK, who is wanted in Turkey for terrorism.

Coming after weeks of strenuous denials, the admission was certain to send Greek-Turkish relations, always problematic, to the cliff edge.

Theodore Pangalos, the Greek Foreign Minister, told a press conference that Mr Ocalan had been under Greek diplomatic protection at the embassy in Nairobi, from where he vanished on Monday, only to turn up captured in Turkey early yesterday.

Rumours of the Kurdish chieftain's capture apparently triggered Kurdish militant attacks on Greek embassies and consulates in 13 European cities on Monday night.

Mr Pangalos appeared intent on appeasing a triumphant Turkey by condemning the attacks on the embassies and the taking of hostages as "utter brutality", threatening that he would order "merciless treatment" of the occupiers if they did not quit the embassies within the day.

Despite the tough talk, it seemed clear that Turkish suspicions that Greece and its left-wing Government are abetting the Kurdish cause were confirmed to some degree. Mr Pangalos said Mr Ocalan was put up at Greek diplomatic premises in Nairobi for 12 days after abortive attempts to seek political asylum elsewhere. Against Greek advice, Mr Ocalan wanted to leave for The Netherlands.

Somewhere between the Greek Embassy and Nairobi Airport, Mr Pangalos said, the car in which the PKK leader was riding "suddenly veered away out of a convoy and disappeared". Greek diplomats who were following were apparently unable to give pursuit. Hours later Bulent Ecevit, the Turkish Prime Minister, said that Mr Ocalan was captive in Instanbul.

Pro-Kurdish politicians in Greece, both left-wing and right-wing, were quick to accuse the Government of Costas Simitis, the Prime Minister, of negligence or worse. Most commentators on Greek television said the Government had made it easy for the Turks to seize their prey in the interests of maintaining smooth Greek-Turkish relations. In previous weeks Mr Simitis had denied having dealings with the PKK leader.

Britain fears new terrorist attacks

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE EDITOR

THE eruption of protests in London and other capitals over the deportation to Turkey of Abdullah Ocalan, the leader of the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), has raised the serious prospect of an escalation in violence in this country.

There is also concern that the PKK might repeat their attacks on holidaymakers in Turkish resorts which caused a number of British injuries at Marmaris in 1994.

A Foreign Office warning urges holidaymakers bound for Turkish resorts to be vigilant. This has been underlined recently by Iraq's threats of terrorism because of Turkey's permission for its bases to be used for US and British combat air patrols.

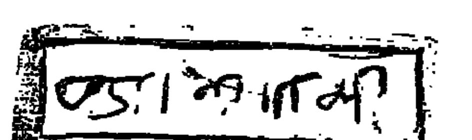
However, the Foreign Office and other government departments yesterday were taking a deliberately unprovocative line to avoid worsening what was already a potentially dangerous situation.

Although the protests were being seen as a carefully staged demonstration to gain maximum publicity for the rebel leader, the security authorities are aware of the potential for increased violence as Turkey prepares to try Mr Ocalan on terrorist charges.

The many Kurdish supporters of the PKK living in Britain are regarded by the police and MI5 as legitimate dissidents, who are allowed to stay in this country provided they pose no threat to Britain's security and do not become involved in plotting violent acts abroad.

The revamped Prevention of Terrorism Act specifically includes action against people living in Britain as political refugees who are suspected of inciting violence in their countries of birth or elsewhere.

With the latest demonstrations over the detention of Mr Ocalan, the fear being expressed yesterday was that support for the PKK leader could raise the temperature over the Kurdish issue and could escalate to acts of terrorism in this country.



Serbs must go or we fight on, says rebel chief



Nothing short of independence will do, a defiant Kosovo guerrilla commander tells **Anthony Loyd** in Lapastica

A KEY commander in the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) yesterday dismissed the possibility of disarming or disbanding his guerrilla forces as part of any negotiated settlement that stopped short of giving full independence to the southern Serbian province.

"Zone commanders such as myself are members of the General Staff," said the fighter, known as Commander Remi, one of the most senior KLA officers remaining in Kosovo. "We obey our orders, but the General Staff is fighting for the freedom of Kosovo, so we don't expect orders to disarm or disband. We'll put our weapons in warehouses only when we have liberated Kosovo."

Commander Remi is in charge of the most vital of the seven KLA operational zones which divide Kosovo. Included in his area of responsibility is the municipality of the provincial capital, Pristina, as well as the vital highway running north which connects Kosovo to Serbia. Though only 27, the former law student, who interrupted his studies to fight, has previous combat experience gained in the Yugoslav Special Forces during the Croatian war in 1991.

His fighters have the best record of any in the KLA. Well armed and equipped, they have encroached to within 500 yards of the arterial road north and have held their gound against repeated Serb counter-attacks.

Ironically, 80 per cent of their weaponry, which includes grenade- launchers, mortars and fire-and-forget anti-tank systems, they have bought from mafia gangs inside Serbia. "The Serbs who sell to us are the clever ones," one of Commander Remi's deputy commanders declared. "They profit from what is inevitable. That is a wiser thing to do than come here and die."

Speaking with succinct articulation at his headquarters in Lapastica, an ethnic Albanian village 21 miles north of Pristina, Commander Remi appeared well briefed on developments from the stumbling peace efforts at Rambouillet.

Key defence points of the deal being discussed by negotiators in France — among them a five-man KLA deputation — include not only the destruction of the KLA as a military force but the re-creation of a Kosovo police force with Serb as well as ethnic Albanian membership, and a shared defence policy with Serbia. According to Commander Remi, none of these points is negotiable. "The KLA is getting stronger by the day." he said. "I am hoping that we will be accepted by the international community just as our representatives have been accepted at Rambouillet.

Rejecting the idea of an autonomous region, the zone commander stipulated: "Freedom means not only the withdrawal of police and military forces from Yugoslavia, but the constitution of a new state with a new system as Albanians wish. And as far as unification with Albania? It's an ongoing process, but a slow one."

Paradoxically, the Rambouillet talks seem to be foundering not on the KLA's refusal to accept the terms offered to them in France — for the negotiations have not progressed far enough even to touch on these issues — but on Belgrade's refusal to accept Nato troops on its soil.

Beyond the failure of negotiations in France, the escalation of war into Kosovo's towns and ultimate victory, Commander Remi was also considering his own future. The man with cold, one-dimensional blue eyes, a face grey and drawn with lines suggesting at least an extra decade to his youth, wants to return to the study of law.

"My ambition is to go to Tirana and finish my last year at the faculty studying. But my intentions to take care of our army may never let me go," he said.

US envoy has crisis talks with Milosevic

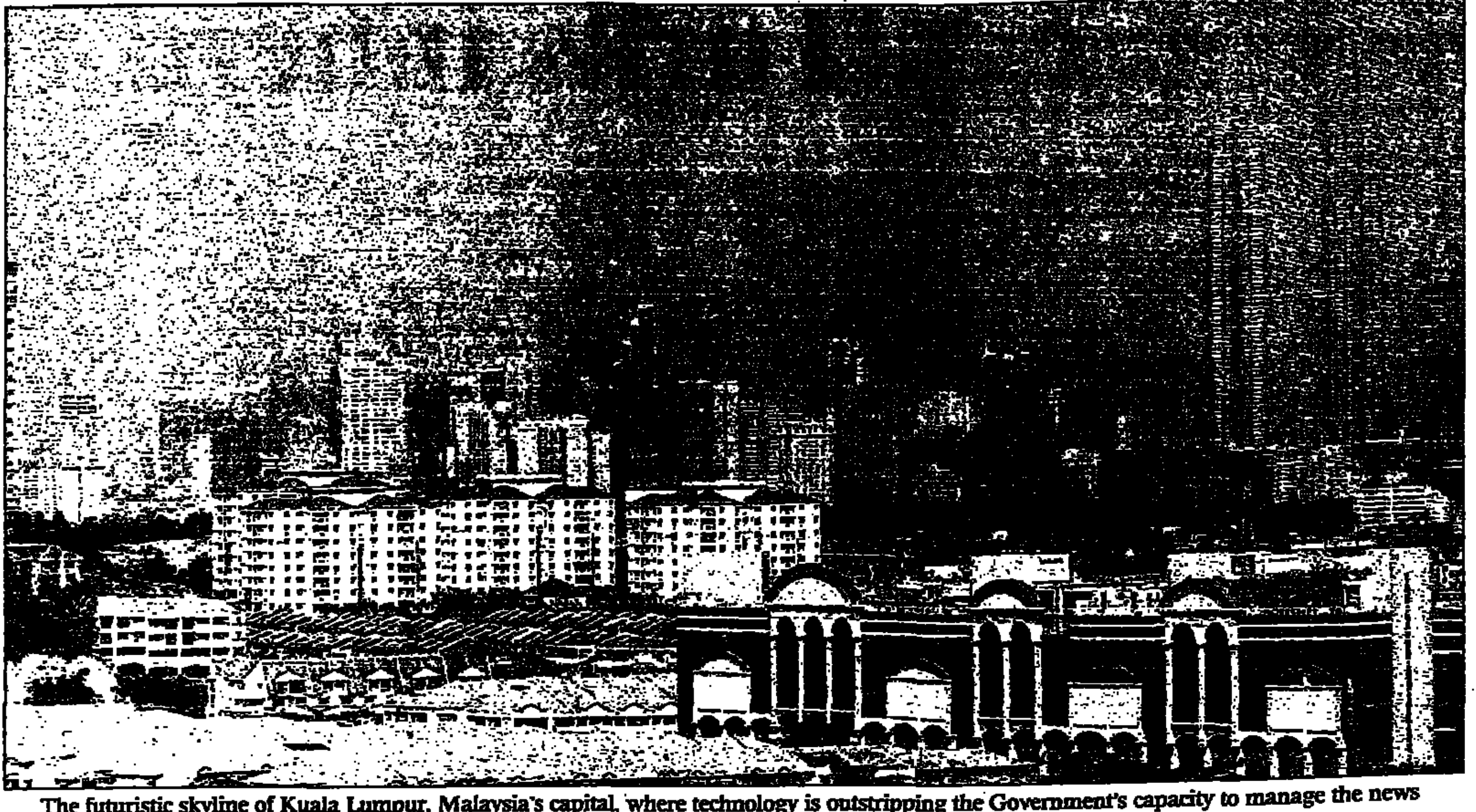
FROM TOM WALKER IN RAMBOUILLET

THE American mediator of the Kosovo peace talks, Chris Hill, flew to Belgrade last night for emergency discussions with President Milosevic of Yugoslavia.

Earlier his exasperated colleagues had reminded both the Serbs and ethnic Albanians that the policing and military aspects of the deal on offer, including the Nato "Kfor" implementation force, were non-negotiable. The Serbs yesterday submitted written comments on progress so far, which prompted Mr Hill's shuttle to Belgrade. Western officials speculated that he was hoping to win Mr Milosevic's consent to the political aspects of the deal, leaving aside military and policing "annexes".

The Serbs made it clear yesterday that allowing Nato into Kosovo unopposed, and the withdrawal of almost 15,000 special police, are unacceptable. Kosovo Liberation Army representatives are appalled that their people's army will disappear under Nato supervision. Saturday's deadline for a deal is fast approaching, with US, Russian and Austrian mediators still frustrated.

MIKE FALA / AP



The futuristic skyline of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital, where technology is outstripping the Government's capacity to manage the news

Techno-dissidents outwit government

Malaysia's ambitions to join the Internet revolution have backfired, writes **David Watts** in Kuala Lumpur

IN MALAYSIA, George Orwell's vision of *1984* is having to contend with Windows 98 as the Internet and e-mail outrun the attempts of the Government to manage information and control dissent.

The attempts by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, the Prime Minister, to turn Malaysians into technically sophisticated inhabitants of the 21st century is backfiring in ways he never anticipated. Opposition Internet sites and links run into their hundreds, far outstripping the techno-dissent in China and Indonesia at the time of the removal of President Suharto.

Dr Mahathir's pet project is Linear City, a high-tech zone to run from central Kuala Lumpur to the new international airport. Projects like this, along with Malaysia's role as an assembly base for Japanese electronic technology, mean that Net access and competence are high.

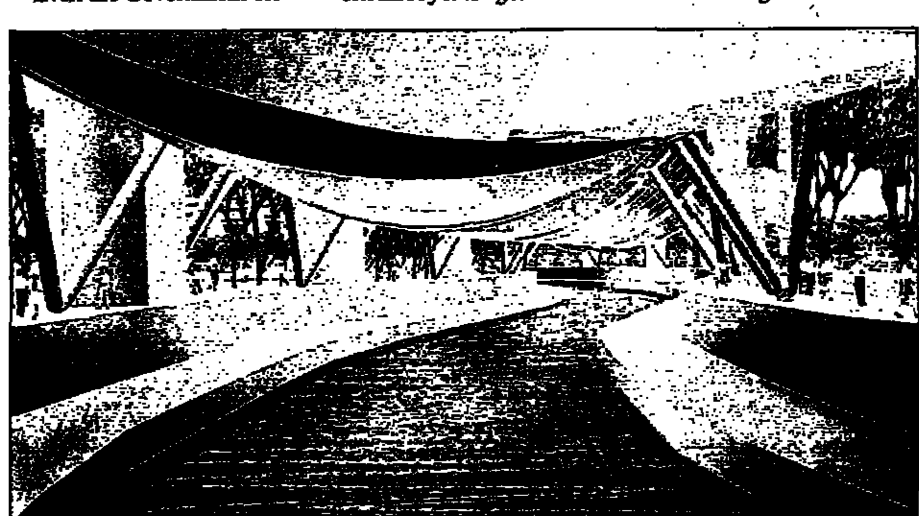
The Government has failed to grasp that control of radio, television and the press can be easily circumvented. Nearly verbatim accounts of the controversial trial of Anwar Ibrahim, the former Deputy Prime Minister, are now appearing on the Net simultaneously with the bowdlerised versions in the local media.

When a news agency flash from the Anwar trial appeared on a dissident Internet site within minutes recently, the Special Branch temporarily detained the reporter and accused him of "conspiring" with the Opposition. In reality, a hacker had broken into the agency service and "borrowed" the report.

Even the Government confirms that dissident sites have received two million calls over the past few months. Archives of background material, including the sound of Mr Anwar's speeches, can be downloaded from the Net. One of the earliest is the service run by M. G. G. Pillai, a veteran local journalist, who started his Sangkancil network three years ago, frustrated at the poor quality of local reporting and comment.

He started with between 500 and 600 subscribers for material which is mostly in English. The total is now about 1,900 and includes senior figures throughout South-East Asia. In addition, his articles are printed and distributed in samizdat form. One leading businessman makes sure that another 20 people have access to the material and a lawyer passes on 300 copies. Once, when a taxi driver realised Mr Pillai was in his car, he pulled out a sheaf of articles and let him ride for free.

The low cost of accessing Internet information — usually the price of a local telephone call — means that information is widely available and there is no question of trying to license computers and computer equipment, in the way that the Russians used to license photocopiers and typewriters. The Government has tried to block certain sites, but even that avenue has been sealed off by opposition site operators who use sophisticated encryption technology to protect their material and now base their sites offshore. So discredited is the mainstream print media that the newspaper of the opposition Islamic Party of Malaysia now outsells the *New Straits Times* by two to one.



An artist's impression of Linear City, a high-technology zone of Kuala Lumpur



http://www.reformasi.com — Opposition groups backing Anwar Ibrahim
http://www.reformasi.com/links.html — For and against reformers
http://www.asiaasia.com/malaysia — News and business information

Russia scraps naval exercises with Britain

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE EDITOR

AN AGREEMENT between the Russian Navy and Royal Navy to hold joint exercises as part of an attempt to forge closer military links has been scrapped by Moscow after only 12 months, in protest at Britain's involvement in bombing Iraq.

The naval agreement was signed in December 1997 by George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, and Marshal Igor Sergeyev, the Russian Defence Minister, at a ceremony in Moscow.

The concept of joint naval exercises with Russia was hailed as an example of the Government's "defence diplomacy" under which the British military would play a part in improving relations with Moscow. However, according to Ministry of Defence sources, the Russians have pulled out of the agreement, at least for the time being, because of the bombing campaign in Iraq last December.

HMS Somerset, a Royal Navy Type 23 frigate, held a one-day exercise with Russian warships off St Petersburg in June last year. Later a Russian warship, the *Bespokoiny*, arrived at Plymouth and took part in an exercise with *HMS Norfolk*, another Type 23 frigate, including a search and rescue training operation. Further joint naval exercises were planned.

Military link taints leader in Nigeria's presidential race

FROM SAM KILEY IN LAGOS

OLUSEGUN OBASANJO yesterday emerged as the front-runner in Nigeria's elections for a civilian Government, but deep suspicions remain over whether the former major-general would herald another cycle of military rule, this time by soldiers in mufti.

An internationally respected figure, Mr Obasanjo is seen by many Western Governments as the leader they would most like to see handle the transition from dictatorship to democracy in Africa's most populous country.

But his many critics in Nigeria have been made uneasy by the substantial donations he has made to his People's Democratic Party, which they believe could not have come from his own coffers. They also claim there was widespread buying of votes among party delegates at the weekend when Mr Obasanjo was selected as presidential candidate.



Obasanjo: doubts over democratic credentials

As a former officer who led a commando contingent with distinction during the 1960s in the Biafra war, Mr Obasanjo, 61, is reviled among many fellow Yorubas in the south-west of the country because of his popularity in the senior echelons of the army, which is dominated by the Muslim northerners.

"The military have made their choice, Obasanjo, but the pauperised population have little choice at all in this election," said Morin Babalola, an anti-corruption campaigner. Her view is shared by Chief Gani Fawehinmi, a leading human rights lawyer, who called the elections a "lop-sided political process".

Mr Obasanjo faces a challenge from Obu Falae, also a Yoruba, who is popular in his home areas and who received the nomination of an alliance of the All People's Party and the Alliance for Democracy.

Campaigning in gubernatorial, council, parliamentary and the presidential elections has revealed few policy differences between the rivals.

Nigerians will have to decide who will be their next President largely on his personality later this month. Mr Obasanjo, an outspoken critic of military rule who spent three years in jail until released last year after the death of the then dictator, General Sani Abacha, has vowed to stamp out corruption which has impoverished the world's sixth largest oil producer. He has been silent, however, on what moves he would make to "de-politicise" the army.

Fugitive Mengele 'took holidays in Switzerland'

Jews furious that Angel of Death made postwar visits to Europe on Red Cross passport, writes **Christopher Walker**

JOSEF MENGELE, the notorious Nazi war criminal who escaped arrest at the end of the Second World War by fleeing to South America, returned to Switzerland many times to take holidays and visit his family, apparently with the knowledge of the local police.

The disclosures about alleged Swiss laxity towards the activities of wanted Nazis have shocked Jews around the world. They were contained in the latest issue of the Zürich-based Jewish weekly, *Israelitische Wochenblatte*, based on official documents not due to be made public until 2009.

The German-language publication claimed that Mengele — known as the "Angel of Death" because of the genetic medical experiments he conducted on Jews, including twins and dwarfs, in Auschwitz — used a fake Red Cross passport to take frequent trips to Switzerland in the 1950s, at one time staying in 1956 at an Alpine hotel called The Angel in the central Swiss resort of Engelberg.

The paper disclosed that Mengele also used his false identity to spend an extended holiday at a flat rented by his wife in a Zurich suburb and to pay a number of visits to his son, who was studying at a private boarding school in the affluent town of Montreux.

Mengele: the SS doctor in wartime uniform

Dov Alfon, a Paris correspondent for the Tel Aviv newspaper *Haaretz*, yesterday quoted Viktor Schlumph, the Swiss Justice Ministry spokesman, as telling a French journalist that the new information depicted "a horrifying tale which the Government of Switzerland will now investigate to the full".

Mr Alfon told *The Times* that he was convinced that documents on which the revelations were based were genuine. "It seems that someone on the inside chose to leak them well in advance of the date to which they were officially embargoed," he said. "This information has spread like wildfire and stunned Jewish communities in Europe."

Born in Günzburg, Germany, and later declared medically unfit to serve at the front in the Second World War, Mengele was — at his own request — appointed doctor of the Auschwitz death camp. As well as his experiments conducted between 1943 and 1945, he participated in the selection of tens of thousands of prisoners in the Birkenau camp attached to Auschwitz destined to die in the gas chambers.

The *Encyclopedia Judaica* comments: "The figure of Mengele decreeing life or death by a flick of the finger has become one of the symbols of the Holocaust: he was called by the camp inmates 'the Auschwitz monster'."

Based on the documents, the Zurich weekly claimed that Mengele received a Red Cross passport on May 21, 1949, after submitting to the Swiss consul in the Italian port of Genoa a forged ID card in the name of Helmut Gregor.

Several days later "Helmut Gregor" used his new passport to flee to Argentina. In the early 1950s Mengele moved to Paraguay, apparently after Interpol issued an international death warrant against him that was distributed in Buenos Aires. By 1956 he felt it safe enough to begin his visits to Switzerland, where he found no difficulty entering or leaving, even though it is alleged that the alias of "Helmut Gregor" was already known to the police all over Europe.

A spokesperson for the International Committee of the Red Cross stressed that during the period when the false travel document was issued "the organisation was entrusted with the task of helping tens of thousands of people in distress. We issued 70,000 passports, and were not always able to efficiently establish the identity of all those seeking our help. We apologise for the pain we caused Holocaust survivors and beg for their forgiveness".

The Zurich weekly charged that the Swiss police knew of the flat in a Zurich suburb rented by Mengele's wife, where he took an extended vacation in 1961.

Mr Alfon wrote: "The Swiss police knew of the flat and followed Mengele while he was there. Their failure to arrest him was apparently a bureaucratic mishap.

"The Swiss Justice Ministry waited for an official extradition request from Germany, but by the time that this arrived, Mengele was on his way back to South America.

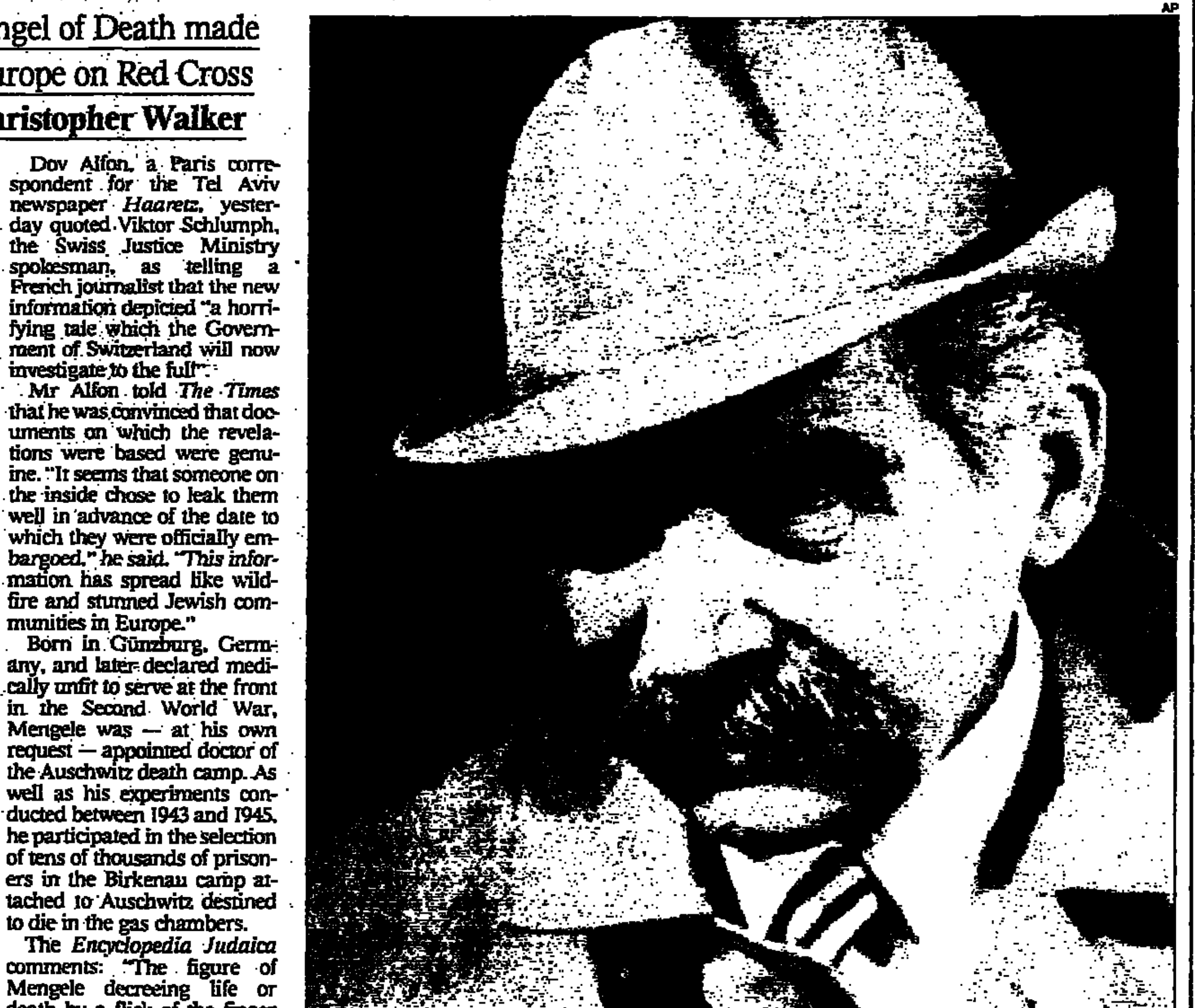
"The Swiss policemen following him did nothing to detain the Nazi criminal, instead contenting themselves with writing down the license plate number of the car that took him to the airport."

Yesterday the Federation of Swiss Jews demanded that the Swiss Government set up an immediate commission of inquiry into the affair.

Mr Alfon said: "It is unknown whether the Justice Ministry will agree to open its archives, although it is clear that the documents published by the paper were leaked from them."

He added that, according to the official story, which many still question, Mengele — who originally studied medicine and philosophy — drowned at a Brazilian beach in 1979.

AP



The Auschwitz "monster" in the 1970s, shortly before his reported death in Brazil



Dufoix: arriving at the court yesterday

Tainted blood victim attacks Fabius

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

AS THE tainted blood trial entered its second week yesterday, a victim of the scandal accused Laurent Fabius, the former Prime Minister, of failing to destroy blood stocks contaminated by HIV, the Aids related virus.

Sylvie Rouy, who appeared in court in a wheelchair attended by two nurses, was infected with contaminated blood on August 2, 1985, as she gave birth to her first child.

"Not ordering the destruction of the stock was not a political error, it was a crime," she said.

M Fabius replied that he had "no comment on such profound suffering".

The families of thousands of victims who contracted Aids after receiving tainted blood from the national transfusion service have been joined by the media in criticising the handling of the case by Christian Le Gunehec, president of the court trying M Fabius and two former Health Ministers, Georgina Dufoix and Edmond Hervé, for manslaughter.

Yesterday the victims lodged a complaint accusing him of partiality after he refused to allow them to join the hearing as civil parties. The judge had dismissed them as "passers-by" who had no place at the trial.

The right-wing *Le Figaro* questioned whether Judge Le Gunehec should be replaced by a "more pugnacious" president. Despite a distinguished legal career, the judge has been accused of incompetence. Claims against him include failing to acquaint himself with the facts and favouritism in his treatment of the accused.

German fund to aid Nazi victims

Berlin: Gerhard Schröder, the German Chancellor, and German big business yesterday announced plans to compensate Nazi Holocaust survivors and about 800,000 Eastern Europeans who worked as slave labourers in Hitler's Third Reich (Tony Paterson writes).

The project, entitled Foundation Initiative of German Business, was unveiled after a meeting of business leaders and Herr Schröder in Bonn and is backed by 17 banks and firms including Deutsche Bank, Krupp and Volkswagen. But officials refused to specify how much would be available for compensation.

Herr Schröder said the fund would create a foundation to counter legal claims, especially class action suits in the US.

The issue was brought to a head earlier this month following disclosures that Deutsche Bank co-financed the building of the notorious Nazi death camp at Auschwitz.

WORLD IN BRIEF

Manila Briton in child rape arrest

Manila: Gerald Charles Hart, 66, a retired oil company technician from London, has been arrested and faces charges of raping at least two girls, aged 12 and 14, after drugging them and tying them up. Child rape is punishable by death under Philippines law.

"The allegations against me are certainly, absolutely not true," Mr Hart told reporters yesterday. He was arrested near his home in Novaliches in suburban Quezon City, where he has lived for two years. Police said they found pictures of him molesting other bound, unconscious girls. *(AP)*

Cuba toughens laws

Miami: The Cuban Government has proposed tough new laws to combat dissent as well as violent crimes as part of a major review of the country's penal code (David Adams writes). The laws, which are expected to be approved by the National Assembly, the Communist Party-run legislature, include raising the maximum prison term for "counter-revolutionaries" and enemy collaborators from 20 to 30 years, as well as introducing the death penalty for drug traffickers.

Timor 'transition' call

Canberra: Bishop Carlos Belo, a Nobel laureate, has given a warning that East Timor is not ready for independence and *will need a transitional period of ten to 15 years to break away* from Indonesia. John Howard, the Australian Prime Minister, has been condemned by supporters of East Timor for publicly opposing independence for the territory on the grounds that it could lead to violence and leave Australia with a massive bill for foreign aid. *(AP)*

Leader escapes death



Tashkent: Uzbekistan's President Karimov, right, said "dark forces" tried to assassinate him with up to eight car bomb blasts near government headquarters that killed at least nine people and wounded 15. He vowed to chop off the hands of the culprits. There were reports that some people had been detained and hints that Muslim extremists were to blame. *(Reuters)*

Fire hits ski resort

Grenoble: The French Alpine town of Chamonix was hit by fire yesterday, less than a week after 12 people were killed in an avalanche near the ski resort. The fire broke out late on Monday and burnt for most of the night, injuring four firefighters as they battled to contain the blaze in the community centre in the old town. About 50 people were evacuated from their homes. Last Wednesday, an avalanche swept away 17 chalets near the town in the Mont Blanc region. *(Reuters)*

Taxi taken for a ride

Barcelona: Police arrested a passenger for failing to pay a fare of more than £337 for an eight-hour ride across Spain. The 31-year-old man hailed a taxi in the town of Baza, in the southern Granada province, and arranged for it to take him 560 miles northeast to his home in Pineda de Mar, near Barcelona. At the end of the journey, he confessed that he had no money for the fare. *(AP)*

Yeltsin accused of oil deal scandal

FROM ALICE LAGNADO IN MOSCOW

RUSSIA has been hit by another corruption scandal after a liberal MP accused President Yeltsin's family of turning a blind eye to the transfer of millions of dollars out of one of its republics.

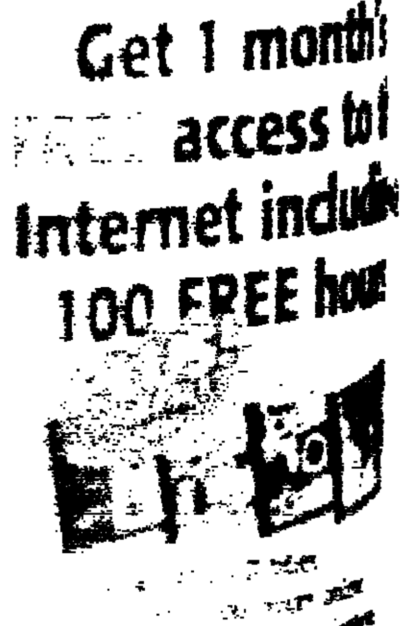
Yuri Shchekochikhin, the MP, wrote in the *Novaya Gazeta* newspaper, where he is deputy editor, that the Government of the northern republic of Komi had moved $10 million (£6.1 million) to an account in Luxembourg with plans to move up to $21 million over a number of years.

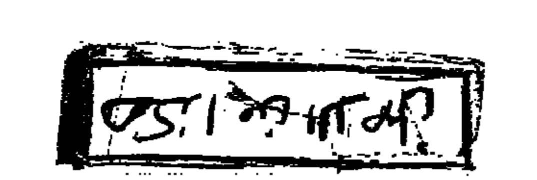
He also said that a company which had close links to Mr Yeltsin bought a controlling interest in a Komi oil company after putting pressure on the Danish owners of the shares to sell. Some of the profits from sales of Komi's oil, which rightly should go back to the region, have thus disappeared into private hands.

According to Mr Shchekochikhin, the Yeltsin family is implicated in the oil deal and that is why the Government has not prevented Komi officials moving the money.

The Central Bank said it could neither confirm nor deny that it approved the deal.

The scandal broke only days after the former head of the Russian Central Bank admitted moving millions of pounds of currency reserves to an account in Jersey. No further details have emerged since the initial news of the "scam", which could prove the worst of post-Soviet shocks.





Map of Canada is redrawn by a land where polar bear is king

Victory for Inuits has created a vast new territory, writes **Giles Whittell**

ACROSS a vast swath of the Canadian North, voters have turned out on foot, skis and snowmobiles in an election to create the country's first new regional assembly for half a century.

The territory of Nunavut, stretching from the northern shores of Hudson Bay to the arctic wastes of Ellesmere Island, is twice the size of Ontario, but with a population of just 25,000 — 85 per cent of which is Inuit.

Their new representatives have almost no political experience, but still hope for a new era in the governance of North America's native peoples.

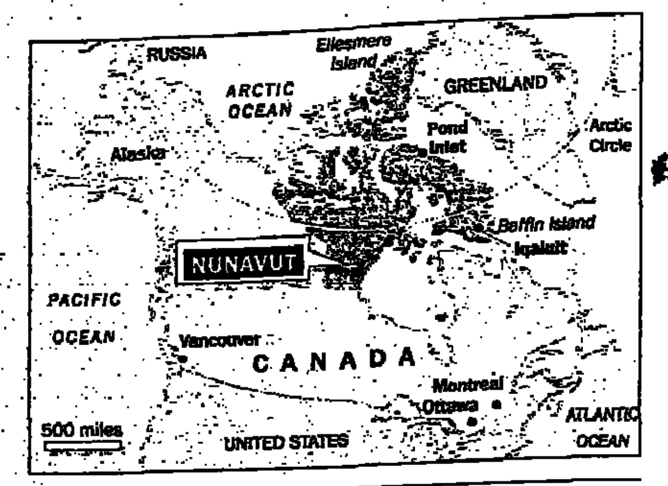
Nunavut stretches across three time zones, but does not have a single road outside its 26 isolated communities. With 22 per cent unemployment and a suicide rate six times the national average, its social problems have defeated the Canadian federal Government for decades and present the world's youngest regional democracy with a stern challenge. Nonetheless, optimism reigned yesterday.

"It's going to be lots of fun, and lots of work," said Jobie Nutarak, an airport maintenance worker and newly elected representative for Pond Inlet, on the northern shore of Baffin Island. He and 19 others, most of them Inuits, will meet in a new assembly building in the territorial capital of Iqaluit on Frobisher Bay. There, on April 1, Nunavut will separate from the Northwest Territories, of which it has been the impoverished half since Canada devoted its energies to the mineral-rich west at the turn of the century.

"As part of the Northwest Territories, the specific needs of Inuits in Nunavut weren't recognised," Annette Bourgeois, of the *Nunatsiaq News* in Iqaluit, told *The Times*. "In the west they have roads and mines. Now the Nunavut representatives will be able to focus on our problems." Monday's election, in a land where polar bears often outnumber voters, was a triumph for Inuit activists who have been pressing the Government with ancestral land claims since the 1970s. But it was a victory for no particular party, since none of the 71 candidates pledged allegiance to any.

Among the first duties of the 19 winners, who include a truck driver, a hunter and several entrepreneurs, will be the election of a Cabinet and regional premier from among their number. Goo Arlooktoo, a former justice minister of the Northwest Territories and favourite for the post of premier, was defeated in the only major upset of the voting. He showed gruff respect for the will of the electorate, which numbers barely 12,000 because half of Nunavut's population is too young to vote. "The people are the bosses. They are always right, and we will have to live with it," he said.

Nunavut's rise to territorial status, eclipsed in the headlines by Quebec's French-speakers, could prove a test case for the future map of Canada.



Jury hears of Texan's hate-filled tattoos

FROM DAMIAN WHITWORTH IN JASPER, TEXAS

SHORTLY after his arrival at the rural back-road where a decapitated body had been discovered by local people on their way to church, the Jasper County sheriff, Billy Rowles, found a piece of evidence that revealed just what it was that he was dealing with. "Once we looked at the KKK emblem on the cigarette-lighter we really started having some bad thoughts," he said.

A packed courthouse in this small east Texas town heard yesterday that the lighter belonged to John William "Bill" King, a white supremacist "full of hate" who pleaded not guilty to charges of kidnapping and murdering James Byrd because he was black.

In a case that has reawakened fears over extreme racism in the South, Mr King, 24, and his friends, Lawrence Brewer, 31, and Shawn Berry, 24, are accused of delivering a ferocious beating to Mr Byrd and then chaining him to the back of a pick-up truck and dragging him along a rough road until his head was sheared off.

The pick-up is the favourite means of transport in this logging country, but there was still astonishment when Mr King was delivered to the county courthouse in a vehicle similar to the one in which he had been early on June 7 last year.

He was wearing a bullet-proof jacket as he was led through a cordon of police. He also wears a stun belt capable of delivering a 50,000-volt shock if he misbehaves.

It was not possible to see the racist tattoos which cover his body, but the prosecutor, Guy Gray, said that they include swastikas, a man in a hood, a black man being lynched and the word Satan.

"This is a young man filled with hate. These are the kind of tattoos that will reflect and tell you the deep-seated anger and hatred that this man has."

Mr King had drafted a constitution and membership literature for a "hate group" he intended to found in Jasper called the Texas Rebel Soldiers Division of the Confederate Knights of America. "King needed to do something dramatic to ... gain respect for his new gang and to attract new members," said Mr Gray.

Mr Byrd was identified, the prosecutor said, by his fingerprints, and a post-mortem examination showed that he had been alive when the dragging began. Markings were absent from parts of his face and head but his elbows were torn to shreds. Mr Gray said that forensic tests found Mr Byrd's blood on the wheels of Mr Berry's pick-up truck and on shoes belonging to all three of the accused.

The sheriff, Mr Rowles, said that when he arrived at the scene he thought Mr Byrd had been killed accidentally by being knocked down and caught underneath the truck.

But when he examined the brown trail on the road he noticed that it often ran on either side of the tyre tracks, indicating that the body had been dragged, swinging from side to side behind, not under, the truck. "I knew we were in trouble," he said.

SIMON WALKER



Natasha Richardson, left, has teamed up with Anna Wintour from *Vogue* to collect 55 Oscars outfits for an Aids auction. Kate Winslet, far right, has offered her 1998 gown

Aids researchers have designs on Oscar outfits

Stars are donating their gowns for auction, **Lisa Armstrong** writes

THE Bob Mackie dress worn by Cher in 1972; the violet gown dyed by the costume mistress Edith Head to match Elisabeth Taylor's eyes in 1969; the lavender strapless vision that transformed Uma Thurman in 1994 ... they're all on show in the windows of Barney's — Manhattan's desperately chic department store.

Not quite the traditional Barney's fare of black and blacker, but the gowns are there for good reason. On March 18, Christie's New York is auctioning 55 Oscar Awards dresses to raise money for the American Foundation for Aids Research. The gowns will be on public view at Christie's in London next Tuesday and Wednesday and in Los Angeles from February 26 to March 1.

The brainchild of the actress Natasha Richardson, whose father Tony Richardson died of Aids, the auction was inspired by the sale of gowns from the collection of Diana, Princess of Wales.

"I thought, good on you — at least all those dresses aren't going to waste," she said. "And then I thought of all those incredible dresses which are created each year for the Academy Awards, all of which are too special to be discarded but which will never be worn again.

"I'm not a spokesperson, I'm an actress, that's what I'm comfortable being. But my dad died of Aids and I want to do whatever I can to help."

Collecting 55 Oscar Awards dresses from five decades and five continents was a tougher task than envisioned — Richardson was just finishing the award-winning off-Broadway version of *Cabaret* and beginning rehearsals for *Closer*, the play by the British writer Patrick Marber which opens on Broadway later this month.

So she enlisted the help of Anna Wintour, the editor-in-chief of American *Vogue*, for whom "designer doors seem to mysteriously open".

And even then there were setbacks. The pair had only three months to pull everything together, and some of the dresses had mysteriously disappeared. "Everyone was very keen to be involved," Richardson said. "One of the first to say yes was Emma Thompson, who volunteered the Armani suit she wore to the Oscars in 1995 — and the shoes, the bag and the stole. Uma Thurman got back pretty quickly too, but then she wasn't sure where she'd misplaced her gown. You imagine all these beautiful dresses would be meticulously catalogued, but that isn't always the case. Some go back to the designers, Joanne Woodward had already donated her dress to a museum and Ali MacGraw lost hers when her house burnt down."

The dresses were not always in pristine condition. "Oscar night is a long one — someone nearly always steps on your train or something splits. A number of them needed a little renovating," said Richardson, who has not donated her own Oscar outfit, a black Donna Karan that she wore to accompany Liam Neeson when he was nominated for *Schindler's List*.

No one is predicting how much the auction will raise, but the Barney's window display on Madison Avenue is creating a storm. Simon Doonan, the store's window-dresser said: "Women are going beserk when the walk past — they're practically foaming at the mouth."



Emma Thompson, left, and Kristin Scott-Thomas have offered the dresses they wore on Oscar night

Antiques dealers in grave thefts inquiry

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

NEW ORLEANS police have arrested members of a ring suspected of stealing more than 200 cemetery ornaments worth an estimated $1 million (£613,000) from tombs belonging to some of the city's wealthiest families.

The investigation began when police traced the owner of a suspicious van spotted by a groundsman at Lake Lawn Metairies Cemetery. At the same time a former New Orleans resident noticed what appeared to be fragments of cemeteries from his home city on sale in Los Angeles shops.

The police investigation has implicated several respected antiques dealers who sold the stolen goods to wealthy collectors of graveyard Gothic in Los Angeles. The police say the theft began with a small group of heroin addicts who stole minor items from the cemeteries. But the dealers to whom they sold items allegedly began ordering more lucrative ornaments, even giving the thieves art history lessons.

At least four prominent antique dealers were arrested after cemetery artefacts were discovered in their homes. All have been released pending a lengthy investigation, and have said they did not know the items had been stolen.



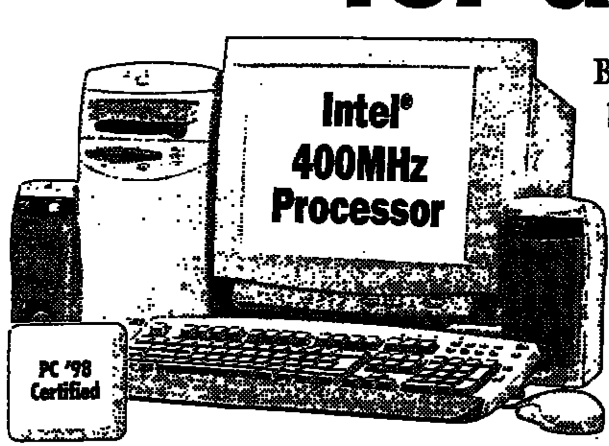
Dirty-linen divorces soil us all

In the crowded kiss-and-sell market, **Celia Brayfield** roots for errant spouses


Jerry Hall has returned fire in her divorce battle with Mick Jagger by sending his lawyers a list of things that she will reveal in a book if he doesn't agree to her demands

And now, the ultimate threat. In her battle for a £30 million divorce settlement from Mick Jagger, Jerry Hall has faxed to his lawyers a menu of the damaging personal recollections of their years together which she would be prepared to publish in a book if he doesn't agree to her demands. This was in response to the opening round fired by Jagger's lawyers, who alleged that the couple had never been properly married anyway because they tied the knot on a beach in Bali.

I think we understand that a woman could be irritated by a claim like that, particularly a woman like Jerry Hall, who has endured more than 20 years with Jagger, has four children by him, and comes from Texas with its cultural heritage of shooting first and asking questions later. So we, the curious millions settling down to watch this real-life celebrity death-match, were expecting a feisty response: perhaps the reasonable suggestion that if the marriage never happened, neither did any or all alleged prenuptial agreements.


Luciana Giminez Morad

Reasonable is not the Texan way. They don't appreciate niceties in the Lone Star State, they like to get down to business. Hall's threat of public exposure has brushed aside the traditional rules of disengagement and moved her divorce negotiations on to a new level.

This strategy is not just another demonstration of celebrity excess. Far from the world of supermodels and rock stars, wronged wives — in consultation with their lawyers — are realising that they now have a new weapon: public shame. Where appeals to a man's feelings for his children or his sense of justice have failed, the threat of public humiliation can succeed beyond the lawyers' wildest dreams.

I know just such a woman, who recently agreed a handsome divorce settlement with the aid of one small tabloid exposé and a half-completed novel. This was not her intention. She started the book in sheer despair in an effort to write out the pain of being abandoned first by her husband, after more than 20 years of marriage, and then by his married boss, who moved in when the husband left, inexplicably claiming that a doomed affair with him was just what she needed to make her feel better.

These people are not in the Jagger class, and the tabloid exposé was tiny, but it gave the boss the excuse to end the affair. The woman, a writer normally occupied with scholarly works of history, was left with no consolation other than her children and her keyboard. Fictionalising her trauma turned out to be good therapy, if hardly a good career move, since her agent could not have shown less interest in the book if it had been a day-old corpse. However, the children read a few incriminating pages and carried lurid reports of them to their father. The terrified ex-partner, visualising his career and reputation in ruins, flailed to the court to make her an offer far higher than that expected by the lawyers — on condition that she reveal nothing to anyone.

The stunned briefs advised her to take the money, bin the novel, zip her lip and live comfortably ever after. Now she goes to dinner parties with a Cheshire-cat smile and, when asked how the book is going, complains: "I've been gagged!"

We can blame the lawyers. Jerry Hall is believed to have consulted Mishcon de Reya, the firm who acted for Diana, Princess of Wales, in her divorce. They presumably have a unique understanding of modern public life. We can blame the tabloids because the gossip industry is proliferating like genetically modified bindweed, strangling decent journalism in its quest for sensation.

We can blame our own prurience which creates the market for that industry. And we can blame Margaret Cook, who has certainly raised the stakes for wronged wives everywhere. Opening her heart to a women's magazine this week, Mrs Cook said that she regretted the book in which she underlined the sad truth that no man is a hero to his ex-wife. Perhaps she also regrets not selling her silence at a higher price.

Did you notice every man of divorceable status shiver in terror on reading her self-righteous revelation that her husband Robin, the Foreign Secretary, once passed out drunk on the dining-room floor during an election? This looked terrible as a tabloid headline but, when put in perspective, it isn't so bad. To get blind drunk and pass out once in a lifetime, and especially during a period of career stress, is well within acceptable limits of human frailty.

Long ago, a revelation like this would have been called "washing the family's dirty linen in public" and nobody would have taken much notice. A famous man's ex-wife was simply cut out of his *Who's Who* entry and ignored. She was written off as vindictive and female, and therefore a bad witness. Her claims of violence, drunkenness, lechery and bad behaviour were disregarded. Women of consequence such as Mrs Cook and Mrs Jagger, a distinguished doctor and supermodel respectively, can't be treated like that.

Wives witness more than slobbish behaviour about the house. They hear the sleep-talk and the covert phone conversations. They know where the offshore bank accounts are located. Kiss-and-sell divorce strategy means that the discretion which our mothers considered part of their own self-respect now looks soft. Post-girl-power, the wife who keeps silent when she has damaging information will be the one who is forgotten.

Trust is no longer the cornerstone of a celebrity marriage, which means that the lonely condition of fame has worsened. Everyone in public life is now vulnerable. The toy boy or trophy wife will soon be able to give up personal grooming and plastic surgery for the cheaper option of keeping a diary.

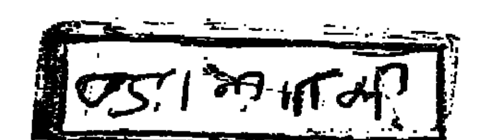
Back to the Jaggers. When you think about it, only a Texan would threaten to embarrass the big daddy of all bad-boy rock stars. What could she say, really? That his Satanic Majesty's favourite drink is Horlicks and that he never really took any drugs?

She could claim that he was a bad father, but his older children are already giving their own interviews on that score. If she claims he is a "bedroom flop" then half a dozen Brazilian beauties will loll around the front pages in Victoria's Secret knickers suggesting it was all their fault. One Brazilian model, Luciana Giminez Morad, currently claims to be pregnant by Jagger. After several decades of fame, we think we already know the worst. So Mick Jagger doesn't like paying tax, has been polite to his interior decorator and Keith Richards can beat him at tennis. Big deal.

Where celebrity marriage leads, ordinary marriage will follow. Marriage without trust is nothing. I find myself suddenly on the side of a straying husband. I hope he calls her bluff — not because I want to see a new genre of autobiography, but because I think it will be best for us all if this unsavoury new market collapses as fast as it has appeared.







A heart to beat all odds

A surgeon and Nasa have created an electric heart, reports **Anjana Ahuja**



Pioneer's long quest: Dr Michael DeBakey, the heart surgeon, with, left, his 30-year-old prototype heart pump and his latest miniature heart, developed with help from Nasa

The human heart is an extraordinary organ. During its lifetime, it pumps enough blood around the body to fill the Albert Hall. It adjusts its beating automatically, according to its owner's needs. And, of course, without a functioning heart, a person ceases to exist.

This truism, and the fact that heart disease is the number one killer in the West, has made cardiovascular research one of the most competitive medical disciplines and turned its pioneers into celebrities.

Foremost among them is 90-year-old Dr Michael DeBakey, the heart surgeon at present tending Boris Yeltsin, the Russian President. Known as the Texas Tornado, DeBakey developed the world's first artificial artery on his wife's sewing machine. Age has been no bar to progress — his hand is said to be as steady now as it was 60 years ago. Now he has scored another triumph — in a ground-breaking series of operations six patients with failing hearts have been implanted with a tiny pump created by DeBakey and Nasa.

DeBakey's work means that patients who would otherwise die waiting for a transplant (there is a shortage of donated hearts) can have their own ailing hearts propped up permanently by the pump. Unlike past devices, the DeBakey pumps are unobtrusive, quiet and small enough to implant in children — and there is evidence that, by allowing the heart to "rest", the implant can help it to make a full recovery from some diseases.

The quest to create an artificial heart, featured in a *Horizon* documentary tomorrow, began in the Sixties after DeBakey developed a device to help the heart to pump blood. Called a left ventricular assist device (LVAD), this pump, which supported the main pumping chamber of the heart, led surgeons to wonder if they could design a device that would not just assist the heart but replace it.

With so much at stake, the race to build a surrogate heart became mired in controversy. DeBakey was then at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and, because he performed the world's first implantation of an LVAD in 1966, already a leading heart specialist. He knew that a junior colleague had tested a primitive artificial heart in cows with mixed success: Dr Denton Cooley (he performed the first successful heart transplant in America, a year after Professor Christiaan Barnard in South Africa) was keen to try it on human beings but knew that the poor experimental record with animals would lead to his seniors' disapproval.

> The race to build a heart became mired in controversy

In 1969 Cooley made history by placing the first patient in the world on an artificial heart. It was intended to keep the patient alive long enough for a donor heart to be found. The patient lived for two days after the operation. DeBakey was in Washington at the time; the first he knew about it, he says, was when he read of it in the newspapers. He was shocked.

"Cooley violated the rules," DeBakey says. "He did not have authorisation for that operation." Cooley retaliated by saying his colleague was bitter about not performing such an historic operation himself, but resigned anyway. The two men have not spoken since, despite living and working in the same city (Cooley went on to found the Texas Heart Institute in Houston; DeBakey now directs the DeBakey Heart Centre, attached to the Methodist Hospital, and Baylor College in Houston).

Cooley has gone on to become a world-famous heart specialist, and is credited with developing techniques to repair heart valves. During the next 20 years, the competition to create a substitute heart became more intense. The most important rival to Cooley and DeBakey was Dr Robert Jarvik, a former engineer who was inspired to be a heart specialist after his father was operated on by DeBakey. In 1982 he teamed up with DeBakey to implant one of his designs in Barney Clarke, who survived for several months. However, the poor quality of life that he experienced prompted a rethink — Clarke was proof that the race to replace the heart was not an unqualified success. Patients were still dying before organs became available and, by the Nineties, such operations were difficult to justify medically and ethically. Jarvik and DeBakey, now working separately, returned to looking at assist devices rather than replacements.

Thanks to luck, DeBakey may yet be able to pull ahead of his competitor. One of the patients waiting for a heart transplant at the DeBakey Heart Centre was David Saucier, an engineer for Nasa. Saucier put DeBakey in touch with space engineers, who advised a radically different approach. While other teams were trying to design assist devices that would mimic the heart, Nasa engineers realised that, as long as it could pump ten litres of blood a minute without damaging blood vessels, their machine needn't use the same pulsating action as the human heart.

Nasa and DeBakey came up with a screw design based on technology used in Space Shuttle fuel pumps. While the screw is turning, liquid is drawn in one end and pushed out the other. Supercomputers helped designers to come up with a rotation speed (10,000 revolutions per minute) that would ensure that enough blood could be pumped without damaging blood vessels.

The device, the size of a fountain pen, is powered by a battery pack worn around the waist. The wire, which links the heart to the pack, comes out through the abdomen. This is the first axial flow pump to be used in heart patients.

DeBakey is now working on a fully implantable version. On November 13 last year, at the German Heart Institute in Berlin, the pump was inserted in a male patient. Five other patients also benefited. One has since died of an unrelated complication and another has had the device removed because his heart improved. Time will tell whether the rest will pull through but so far they have been able to live a relatively normal life.

● Horizon: Electric Heart, *tomorrow, BBC1, 9.30pm: Links: www.methodisthealth.com*

Floating a theory ☐ Monkey business ☐ Bobsleighs and speed

Source of the Flood

SCIENCE BRIEFING — Nigel Hawkes

THIS summer scientists plan to investigate a claim that the Black Sea was the source of Noah's Flood. The theory goes that rising waters 7,500 years ago drove thousands of people from the Middle East into Europe, inspiring both the biblical story and a Babylonian poem, the *Epic of Gilgamesh*.

The belief that these stories might have been inspired by a real event originated late in 1997 from two oceanographers, Dr William Ryan and Dr Walter Pitman of Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory in Palisades, New York. Sediment cores they had taken suggested that around 5,500 BC, rising waters in the Mediterranean surged through the Bosphorus and swept into the Black Sea, until then a freshwater lake. The waters rose by 15cm a day until the sea had risen by 150m and land the size of Florida was submerged. Dr Pitman told *Science*: "Did it cause a diaspora? We can only speculate."

That question might be answered if remains of settlements could be found under the water. A sonar study last summer revealed shapes that, in the words of the expedition co-leader Dr David Mindell of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, were "too large for a shipwreck and too shaped not to be man-made".

This summer's bigger expedition will include scientists from MIT, the University of Pennsylvania, the Archaeological Museum in Sinop, Turkey, and Dr Robert Ballard, who found the *Titanic* wreck. The aim is to do more detailed sonar studies and, if these show the remains of settlements, sediment coring and magnetometry will be used to date them.

The study is part of a larger collaboration between Dr Ballard and Dr Fredrik Hiebert, a University of Pennsylvania archaeologist, who are looking for a deep-sea trade route between Sinop and ports on the north of the Black Sea.

The project also marks the opening to archaeology of really deep water. At a conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts, last month, Robert Grenier, a Canadian archaeologist, said that underwater archaeology was poised to make a great leap. Studies of the trade routes in the Black Sea, the waters around Crete or off Alexandria, could find sunken vessels that would rewrite the history of navigation.

Of course, whatever the expedition finds cannot prove the Noah story. All it can show is that there was a flood which swamped existing settlements, and might have formed the basis of the Bible story. Short of finding pairs of animal skeletons, Dr Mindell says, jokingly, there is no way of proving the truth of Noah's Ark.

Apes can no longer speak in tongues

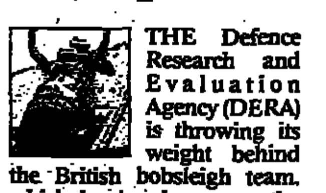


NEANDERTHALS, long envisaged as heavy-browed ape-men whose knuckles scraped the ground, have enjoyed a better press recently. In April last year, a team from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, even suggested that they might have been able to talk. The conclusion came from a study of the hypoglossal canal, a hole at the bottom of the skull where the spinal cord connects to the brain.

The Duke team found that the canal in human beings is twice as large as that in apes, making more room for the nerves that control the tongue. The same was true of Neanderthals — so if the size of the canal was really the key to speech, there was no reason to doubt the ability of Neanderthals to do so.

Now, alas, this attractive theory has been shot down. In this week's *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, a team led by Dr David DeGusta, of the University of California at Berkeley, reports that of 30 non-human primates, half of them have hypoglossal canals as large as humans. So do some ancient human ancestors, including *Australopithecus afarensis*, who lived 3.2 million years ago. So canal size, the team says, is no guide to the ability to speak.

In search of a winner — and sponsor



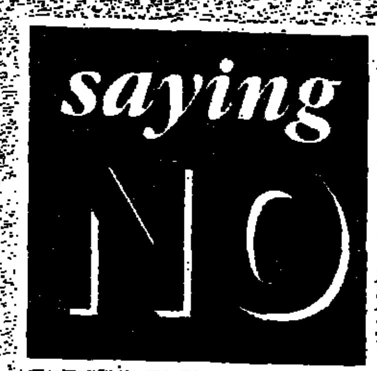
THE Defence Research and Evaluation Agency (DERA) is throwing its weight behind the British bobsleigh team, which is already among the world's top five. Until now, the team has used bobsleighs bought as a standard item from a German manufacturer, while the all-conquering German team uses a purpose-built sleigh, which has given it a clear edge.

"We think we can definitely improve the performance of the British bobsleigh," says Jon Payne, one of the DERA team. "It isn't very high-tech at the moment."

There are limits to what can be done: suspension, for example, which would greatly improve cornering power, is banned under the rules. But that still leaves plenty of options, from new materials to aerodynamics and ergonomics, to shave off the few fractions of a second needed.

One definite plan is to instrument the sleigh during trials to get a true idea of what determines its performance. Until now, only video-taping has been used, and that has limitations. Apart from that, the team is eyeing the back runners, the area of the nose, and the centre of gravity as areas for improvement. Ergonomically, changing the length and height of the handles for the sprint start could help. But if any of these ideas are to be put into practice, the team needs a sponsor in time for the World Cup next year.

How not to raise a little tyrant



In the first extract from her new book, child psychotherapist Asha Phillips explains why saying no is so crucial, and advises parents to set firm limits for children

I am often asked whether being a child psychotherapist helps me as a parent. I usually reply, rather embarrassedly, that it doesn't really. The question seems to carry the implication that if you know quite a bit about children, their emotions and development, then automatically you become a good parent. The fantasy may be that you could be Supermum with the guidebook for successful child-rearing.

I am happy to admit that, like all parents, I feel that I am struggling to do what is best for my children and probably get it wrong much of the time. Then there is the fact that practising psychotherapy is very hard work. It is a particular way of looking at the world and having conversations that demand much concentration, focus and unbiased emotional availability — not a frame of mind that you can provide all the time. Finally, of course, a psychotherapist needs to be as open, lucid and clear-thinking as possible; we all know that when it comes to our families, we are often blind to what is obvious to everybody else.

Having said this, however, it is true that part of my training and experience enters the frame when I am trying to puzzle out problems, or to understand why we behave as we do at home. Sometimes this is helpful, but not always. I often see what is going awry but am at a loss how to change. For instance, my friends and I frequently discuss how hard we find it to be firm with our children without feeling mean. Even when we know that a limit is useful, we have difficulty sticking to it. Why is that so? More generally, why do we persist in doing things that we know are counterproductive? These questions preoccupy me and the book is a result of my attempt to answer some of them.

> Saying no is the key to how a healthy child develops

Just as an architect may be more sensitive to structure and line, or a barrister may have a preference for coherence, logic and consistency, one of the advantages of psychotherapeutic training is that it helps you to see patterns and links. Things that seem to occur for no reason acquire a meaning. When I worked in a hospital, I saw a succession of children whose very different symptoms all related to having no boundaries set for them. I felt a little like the person who looks at an optical illusion, perceiving shapeless forms and suddenly "getting it" — seeing the picture.

All these people with distinct problems seemed to have something in common. The dramatic illustration of this came with a little boy, three years old, suffering from appalling chronic constipation, who eventually needed an intervention under general anaesthetic to clear him. When I met him with his mother, it became clear that he was a child who totally dominated his household and whose parents could not take a firm stand with him or bear his protest and resistance.

In our work together, the focus was on helping his mother to put up with his anger and to stick to sensible limits. I had to support her image of herself as a good mother in the face of his fury. He got better and was saved from the prospect of regular interventions as well as high daily doses of medication. This was a turning point for me.

It struck me that such an ordinary thing as being able to say "no" carried in it the key to so much that is necessary for healthy development. This may seem obvious, yet when I look around me at my patients, my friends, my family and the world at large, I notice that it is not an idea to be taken for granted. I read in the press recently about a two-year-old who plays on his computer all day and whose parents say that he has terrible tantrums if he is asked to sit down and eat with them; food has to be taken to his room so that he may carry on playing. This is clearly excessive but, in smaller ways, many of us tend to accommodate our lives to avoid conflict.

This may be linked to our being a generation who formed our philosophy of life during or in the aftermath of the 1960s. The emphasis on personal growth and freedom, on respect for individuality and self-determination, may have influenced us into becoming parents who are reluctant to set rules or to experience ourselves as rigid in any way.

We also live in far greater isolation than previous generations. The role of the extended family and the community at large is greatly diminished. It is therefore left very much to parents to set the limits, and this makes for more intensity in their relationship with their children. The feelings stirred up are therefore harder to deal with. It certainly seems to be a shared difficulty and one that is very much of our time. As I spoke of writing this book, so many people said "Oh dear, I need it", or "I wish I'd had a book like that when my kids were small". I think, to be truthful, that I needed it too — so I decided that, since it did not exist yet, I might as well write it.

There has been much written about the benefits of saying yes, of praise and encouragement. I endorse most of that stance. What I am hoping to add to the debate about child-rearing is the value of boundaries, the question of balance. The thought that "saying no is useful" is a thread that runs throughout life. It is a framework rather than a set of strict guidelines to follow.

I do not expect people to read my book and then go on instantly to apply a ten-point plan. I hope that it will help parents to look at themselves and their children and to work out what makes sense for them as a family. The great present-day issues of children sleeping in your bed, dealing with crying, eating difficulties, manners, discipline and more may have very different solutions in different families. I show some common patterns that we fall into as parents and offer ways of thinking about them.

Advice and guidance can be very helpful, but ultimately solutions that work are found for oneself. Nobody knows you or your child as you do, and my book attempts to support and help parents to trust their judgment.

HARRY GRUYAERT/MAGNUM



"When we reach for quick solutions to a baby's discomfort, we may do what seems right to us, not what is right for him"

BABIES

There is no such thing as a perfect parent. The idea that one could see to a child's every need and spare him every pain would, in fact, lead to an unhappy and maladapted child. It would not prepare him for life in a world inhabited by others; initially it would be a magic kingdom where he was king, but in time it would turn into a very lonely place.

Babies need to be seen, heard and responded to in order to thrive. But one of the fine lines to be drawn is when it is all right to start saying "no". I am reminded of baby Jim, whom I observed for the first two years of his life. His mother was very attentive and thoughtful, she seemed always to know what he wanted and often anticipated his needs. At the time, I thought that she must be the ideal mother.

When Jim was 11 months old and not yet walking, he loved to hold on to his mother and, with her help, "climb" up and down the stairs. She would hold his hands and he would launch himself up with no regard for his mother bending over to support him. He would demand this activity for long periods of time, and she seemed unable to make a stand about when to stop. She became exhausted, he grew ruthless and tyrannical.

By saying no, this mother would have given Jim an idea of what he could manage by himself, as well as of what she could manage easily and what this activity cost her. Her reluctance to stand up to him encouraged him to become a little despot. This then percolated into their relationship generally — the mother felt bullied and helpless, while Jim was cross and demanding.

Saying no communicates that you are a separate being. The beginnings of being on your own, of separateness, are very important. In the early days, a baby's capacity to manage on his own is very limited. With a parent who responds very quickly to any cry or communication, the baby may well believe that he is not separate at all. He feels alarmed, calls out and there is his father's or mother's face smiling at him over the cot. If this happens every time, the baby may gain no sense that the parents have a life of their own.

Real connection with others involves frustration, struggle and hate as well as comfort, harmony and love. Response to a baby's communication gives him the feeling that he exists and is real. A little space between his communication and a response starts to give him an idea that he is part of a greater world. The length of time spent waiting is where judgment comes in.

Very often, a baby just starts to make a sound and someone picks him up and takes action — a change of nappy, a feed, the offer of a toy. In trying to be the perfect parents, we sometimes interpret too early before he has had time to taste his own feelings.

The idea of a gap between whimper and response is crucial to development. By placing a baby in his cot and soothing him into it, the mother is showing him that it is safe for him to sleep in. By then allowing him to grizzle, she is hearing his complaint but holding on to what she knows he needs — rest. By doing this consistently, she emphasises that he will be all right in his cot and strengthens his sense of self.

If a baby is picked up as soon as he stirs and starts to emerge from his sleep, he will have missed a chance of learning that he can explore his surroundings and make something of this experience by himself. This brief moment carries in it the seeds of independence and self-confidence.

Sometimes, when we reach for quick solutions to a baby's discomfort, we do what seems right to us, not necessarily what is right for him. Health visitors frequently see parents who immediately offer food as comfort, when at times something else may do — such as talking or singing to the baby, or holding him in your arms. Most people feel helpless in the face of a cry of complaint and want to "make it better" straight away. We often feel that we can achieve this by "doing" something. But when the response to discomfort is always action, a baby learns that only activity makes you feel better. He becomes easily distressed if left to his own devices and cannot entertain himself.

If you instantly fill a gap, it is usually with something familiar. It does not permit creativity or the emergence of the new. This can have repercussions in the "I'm bored" syndrome of children of primary school age, and makes it hard for the child to linger, to ponder, to explore, instead of restlessly reaching out for action.

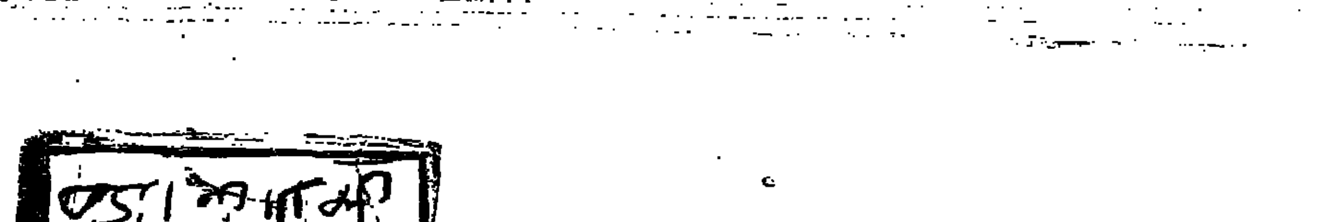
When a distraction is always used as a method of dealing with upset, you are saying, in an indirect way, that complaining is unacceptable or even unbearable. But it should be acceptable to have a moan and a groan. Parents may need to learn just to stay with the grumpy baby and offer sympathy. "Yes, I know you're feeling miserable, we all feel that way sometimes. It's OK, things will improve . . ."

By managing a baby's grumpiness, the mother is not just helping him to overcome that particular moment, but is giving him a model of how to deal with difficulties. By tolerating his discomfort, she is saying that this is an acceptable and bearable feeling but that, in the end, it will be all right. Learning to survive problems helps enormously in building up resilience in oneself and faith in others.

● Saying No *by Asha Phillips is published on March 1 by Faber, £8.99. Times readers can order this title for only £7.99 by calling The Times Bookshop on 0990 329454.*

TOMORROW

Two to five and the primary school years



A Stoic in search of a heart

Hague may have a steely exterior, but what lies beneath?

Having spent the best part of last week cheek by jowl with William Hague, a privilege normally only accorded to his wife, Ffion, and judo partner Seb Coe, I feel better equipped than most journalists to offer an insight into the character of the man who might be our next Prime Minister.

But only slightly better. Mr Hague is a very difficult man to get the measure of. Although I swigged Heineken with him at 30,000ft, followed in his footsteps around Harlem schools and shot the stratospheric breeze with him about Conservative philosophy, my conclusions about his character are still, just, provisional. At a time when the personal is increasingly political, and the Prime Minister shares the secrets of his diet with us to win our trust, Mr Hague gives little away.

The most striking aspect of Mr Hague's personality is his serenity. Margaret Thatcher liked to quote Kipling. Mr Hague embodies the stoic virtues of his verse. He treats triumph and disaster with the same, distanced, equanimity. Flicking through the press cuttings the day after his visit to schools in East Harlem he barely betrayed a flicker of either pleasure or annoyance, however favourable or critical the coverage. One of his aides was more than a little irritated by *The Guardian*'s coverage of the school trip, with its affected surprise that none of the Harlem schoolchildren was familiar with the Tory leader's achievements: "Never mind how many eight-year-olds in Harlem have never heard of William, how many of them have ever heard of *The Guardian?*" Mr Hague set the cuttings aside with scarcely a murmur and returned to his sandwiches.

Michael Gove

Whether buffeted by the press, or typhoon-level turbulence over Virginia, the Tory leader remained imperturbable. Remarking on Mr Hague's calmness at the storm's centre, I was told by one of the team that his impassiveness was a constant: On the day of the greatest reverse to strike his leadership, the unveiling of the plot between Viscount Cranborne and Tony Blair, Mr Hague was informed of the treachery by a stuttering Shadow Cabinet colleague. The unfortunate MP, who clearly felt like a Wehrmacht staff officer stumbling into the Führerbunker after von Stauffenberg's bomb had gone off, was met with studied calmness. "I suppose I'd better sack him, then," remarked Mr Hague, before resuming another progress through the sandwich tray.

This adamantine core might be considered a political asset, if a barrier to personal intimacy. But, curiously, it seems no impediment to a successful relationship with his wife. I fear, however, it may prove an obstacle in Mr Hague's wooing of the electorate.

The Tory leader has been criticised for not making more of his wife as an electoral asset, generally by those who have not always shown a tender interest in the party's fortunes. The motive behind many of these criticisms has not been hard to detect. By marrying late, without any hint of a rake's progress to the altar, Mr Hague has been the object of a malicious whispering campaign. During the 1997 leadership campaign members of John Redwood's campaign team took lubricious pleasure in sneering at the "bachelor boys" around Mr Hague.

Observing the Hagues together, however, I was struck by the unforced pleasure they took in each other's company. When Mr Hague was addressing a Dallas press conference my eyes wandered to the side of the room where Ffion stood, her eyes fixed on her husband with an indulgent pride. On the flight back from Dallas, Ffion gently massaged the Tory leader's shoulders before settling into the seat opposite, and coiling her calves around his. While in Texas, Mr Hague's wife was anxious to steal away from one meeting, but her inattention to political duty was motivated by her need to grab a bottle of her husband's favourite stress-relieving bath soak from its American stockist.

The Tory leader's capacity to keep any hint of his job's stresses restricted to the bathroom is perhaps a factor in his appeal as a husband. Stoicism may be an unfashionable virtue, its eclipse mourned by Tom Wolfe in the pages of *A Man in Full*, but it is close to the core of what we mean by masculinity. I suspect that the protective arm, and unfurrowed brow, the qualities which we were once unafraid to call manly, are more attractive to many women than the feeble emoting of the New Man. Ffion certainly seems to think so.

But does the electorate? Mr Hague seems himself to sense that stoicism is not enough. He went to the United States looking for the secret of "compassionate conservatism". He travelled to the home of George Bush Jr, the vote-winning wizard of Austin, like the Tin Man looking for a heart. And although his emphasis on education and his new "values agenda" sounds as thought it might be the missing organ, it still seems curiously bloodless.

Taking soundings after Mr Hague spoke in Washington, I found the audience impressed by his intellect but incapable of discerning the music of his soul. Mr Hague is an accomplished performer in the Commons, but his style is Classical, not Romantic.

The ersatz emoting of Tony Blair soon grates. Tories may consider that their hearts are not designed for easy display on their sleeves. But Mr Hague's own recognition that the Tories can no longer win as "the economics party", the intuition that took him in his private jet to Texas, requires more from him than the stern virtues of the Stoic. In an emotionally literate age persuasion is more than a matter of logic. For compassionate conservatism to make sense, it must have passion at its heart.

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Police under the cosh

If the Met is singled out for blame, it will revert to prejudice even more

Hold on. Wait a little longer. The excitement is building. Every day another detail is leaked. This week the Home Secretary gets his chance. Next week comes the full, exhilarating burst of self-righteousness. It is the publication of the Macpherson report into the police's handling of the Lawrence affair. The world will be in full cry, bloodhounds barking, horns braying, tally-hoing from a view to a kill, or at least from a TV studio to a docudrama. There must be a resignation in it somewhere.

Liberal opinion is offered precious few permits these days to dump on working-class prejudice. The Lawrence inquiry has been one such permit. The issue is race, and race trumps class in the political correctness game. So the dump will be from a great height, such as only the High Court judge, Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, can attain. The BBC will drown in pomposity. *The Guardian* will have an orgasm.

I carry no brief for the constables who investigated the Lawrence murder. The Metropolitan Police has acknowledged its negligence. Killers got away and damage was done to relations between the police and the local black community. The police did not kill Stephen Lawrence, nor did they wilfully shield his killers, though in the present hysteria any accusation might seem plausible. But they were startlingly incompetent, and the incompetence of some was cloaked in attitudes clearly coloured by racial prejudice.

So what do we all do? Most of those accused by Macpherson have been retired and a drastic reorganisation of the Met instituted. But that was apparently not enough. Blood was up. Britain is crass at holding public servants to account. As Parliament slithers into somnolent irrelevance and local democracy withers, accountability must find other outlets. The current craze is for gargantuan Inquisitions, such as Scott on arms-for-Iraq, Phillips on BSE, Macpherson on Lawrence.

What in the private sector is settled with a sacking and in America with a fierce congressional hearing, in Britain is delegated to lawyers and an attendant pack of salivating journalists. Ministers toss them some malfunction in public administration, and they pick over it at ludicrous length before declaring an *auto-da-fé*. Hapless individuals are then marched into flames, bemused at what is usually a disproportionate share of blame heaped on their heads. Ministers are thus exonerated of any responsibility and Parliament goes back to sleep, belching faintly on cue.

When a middle-class profession has slipped up, fun is had by all. Thus it was with Scott's ministers and the Bristol heart surgeons. Somehow the accused did not starve. If they were Maxwell auditors, they passed Go and collected £200. They were "one of us". But the police is a more delicate case. This is still a working-class profession, treated with the hear-no-evil, see-no-evil respect the English used to reserve for their butlers. The police can conduct their affairs as they like, provided nothing frightens the horses.

Police officers today are like the guardians of young offenders and the mentally ill. They are paid good money to keep society's troubles out of sight. Their work is difficult and often upleasant. It involves spur-of-the-moment decisions, confronting often unstable people against a backdrop of violence. This requires personal commitment, training and experience, coupled with a responsibility for personal judgment and for maintaining public trust. This is the classic definition of a true profession. Yet this profession is odd. It is one that no middle-class parent yearns for his son or daughter to join. Middle-class offspring may make videos, clean chalets or cook dinners. But not the police, please.

Simon Jenkins

As a result, the police are coated in political Teflon. Margaret Thatcher showered them with money, which they consumed with little managerial accountability. They can get away, almost, with murder. Their Achilles' Heel is race, for racism is a charge that transcends all others in the liberal demonology. The police can be as tough as they please — indeed the tougher the better on television — but they must leave behind at the station door the prejudices of their class. Since the most lawless areas of cities tend to be where most blacks live, this is hard. There is racial prejudice in all inner cities. Police should fight against it, but given the conditions in which they work, some prejudice is bound to be endemic.

The Lawrence affair was not just a misjudgment by officers on the beat. The failure to launch a murder hunt showed a casual attitude to white-on-black crime that reflected just such endemic prejudice. As a result, the Met was suddenly vulnerable to accusations that could be widened from the operational to the "institutional", and made the excuse for a public and highly charged inquiry. The whole profession of policing has been put under suspicion, though carefully not so as to implicate its political masters. The Home Secretary's responsibility for the Met is a classic of "take the credit, avoid the blame".

The legal vultures have been summoned. Twenty-three officers, so it is leaked, are to be declared carrion. Others in the 26,000-strong force may be guilty of far worse crimes. But the new accountability is no respecter of fairness. It merely needs its regular pound of flesh. Last week was Sierra Leone, this week cervical smears. Next week is Get-the-Met week.

For all the necessary reprimands about to be visited on Sir Paul Condon and his force, I find something sickening in well-paid, comfortable, self-regulating professions excoriating as "prejudiced" those who do far tougher jobs, with lower qualifications and far less status. Lawyers submit to no redress beyond losing an occasional case. The worst thing that can happen to a judge is to be overturned on appeal. Vocations such as consultancy and journalism chiefly involve criticising those struggling to do an honest job and occasionally failing. We look, judge, castigate and run. We shall do it again next week. Nobody notices if we are wrong: Nice work if you can get it, and blindingly easy, especially compared with policing south London.

A corrective to the blame-fest of the Lawrence report is Roger Graef's current television series on policing black America. He visits what are surely the most violent communities anywhere in the world outside war zones. In each case — Boston, Texas and California — these communities finally realised that they could no longer delegate the ghettos to the police and leave them at that. Two armed forces were confronting each other every night. Instead, police, social workers, prosecutors, teachers, judges, had to get down in the dirt on equal terms and fight their city back to safety. In the front line were still the police, but in professional harness with everyone else.

One conclusion I draw from Graef's series is that there is no more sense in isolating the police as a profession than in isolating inner-city blacks as a community. Groups thus isolated react defensively. They fall back on prejudice. The British police are isolated in part because the police remains an "other ranks" profession. Unlike the Army, there is no officer cadre. The reason is that such a cadre would be "class-conscious". It would be inimical to the human skills required for community policing. This is a strength in some respects, but in others it is a weakness. It holds the police as a freemasonry apart, cursed by "canteen culture", overtime and poor management. Policemen can be inarticulate, and thus politically vulnerable when things go wrong.

Things went wrong in the Lawrence case. As a result the profession is about to have an appalling week. It will be told to hire managers, trainers, consultants and a dozen bureaucracies it does not need. The Home Secretary will treat it with professional contempt, announcing a battery of detailed interventions. The media will outbid themselves in derogatory adjectives. Police morale will be thrown to the wolves. And the rest of us? We shall feel much better and go back to our business.

comment@the-times.co.uk



Screen test

BARBARA WALTERS is wooing the Prince of Wales. America's venerable question-popper has been fawning on Mark Bolland, HRH's surprisingly assertive deputy private secretary with responsibility for dealing with the press.

The two met at the Prince's 50th birthday party at Hampton Court, and during a visit to New York Bolland was invited by Walters to dine at her home. They so warmed to one another, I am told, that the chat-show hostess is confident she will soon be able to persuade him to allow an interview.

Enticing the Prince on to her couch would be a coup for Babs because she failed to persuade Diana, Princess of Wales, to chat on screen. But if he agreed, he would be following in the footsteps of Baroness Thatcher, Richard Nixon and Monica Lewinsky.

● *CHRIS SMITH seems not to have forgiven Gerald Kaufman for his withering report on the Royal Opera House. At yesterday's topping-out ceremony in Covent Garden, the Culture Secretary referred inaccurately to the chief of police in Ligeti's* Le Grand Macabre *as Kaufman.*

Hom alone

LIKE the Clintons, the Blairs have been exploiting their position to invite a celebrity chef round to cook. Last summer Tony and Cherie asked Ken Hom (below) to





their French holiday villa. But the PM was unable to tuck into Hom's stir-fry because he had to leave his missus and three kids to rush back to Omagh after the bombing. So impressed was Cherie with Hom's talents that they visited his Imperial City at the weekend for seconds.

● *VISCOUNT LINLEY has been signed up by the National Trust to lecture next week on furniture in London. His talk will be illustrated by the work of that noted cabinetmaker, D. Linley.*

Blind side

STAR wars have broken out in Salisbury. Patrick Moore, the astronomer, has described as a "con trick" the plan by the Bishop of Salisbury, the Right Rev David Stancliffe, to charge tourists £250 each to watch August's eclipse from the cathedral tower.

"Anyone who pays is crazy," says Moore. "The eclipse will not be total in Salisbury. You need to go to Devon or Cornwall." The Chapter House accepts Moore's criticism but says he is missing the point: "We are using eclipse hype to raise money for the cathedral. It will be more fun watching from the top of our tower than in the middle of thousands of people in some field."



● *PETER PORTER'S argument for OUP to keep him and Dennis Enright, his fellow poet, on its list: "It agreed to keep publishing the dead poets. But it should hang on to us because we're nearly dead."*

Wall flower

GILLIAN SHEPHARD has complained to the Speaker about ungentlemanly behaviour on her doorstep by Nick Brown and his chums. The Tory daffodil felt she received an "unprecedented insult" from the Agriculture Minister when he and some colleagues turned up for some event in her Norfolk constituency without inviting her. Shephard has asked Betty Boothroyd to look into the suggestions that George Turner, her neighbouring Labour MP, urged the event's organisers to leave her off the guest list.

JASPER GERARD

'How long would it be, you wondered, until you sat down to a lunch from which you would rise with 12 fingers'

I do hope you can find it in your heart to forgive me when I confess that, until a moment or two ago, I had not given much thought to genetic modification. I beg that forgiveness because, as a major commentator, I am charged with the duty to have a bit of a think about things on your behalf, sort out their constituent significances, come to a conclusion, and then type out the results so that you will not need to think about them for yourselves. Instead, you will be able to relax, eat a decent breakfast, do the crossword, catch your train, spend the day no longer distracted by whatever it is that I have sorted out but focused upon whatever it is you have to do, come back home, pour a large drink, put your feet up, eat dinner, watch a bit of telly, and when the time comes to climb the wooden steps to Bedfordshire, know that you will not have to lie awake fretting about the thing I have now straightened out for you, and get a good night's kip. Thanks to me, you may, quite literally, rest assured. That is what major commentators are here for.

So, since I know you will have been worrying for some time now about genetic engineering, I feel really bad about not having done the business. I should have been there for you when Dolly the sheep first materialised on your lunchtime news, because you suddenly found yourself scared witless over how long it might be before there was a Shane Warne bowling from both ends, and a Shadow Cabinet composed entirely of Ann Widdecombes. Nor, when you first saw that mouse with a huge human ear on its back, did I address the vexed question of whether all mice would soon be able to hear cats coming from five miles away, and thus take over the world. I did not even speak up more recently when our great Prime Minister himself assured you that you needn't worry your pretty little heads about genetically modified foodstuffs, thereby confirming your suspicion that it could be only a matter of time before you sat down to a lunch from which you would stand up again with 12 fingers.

Alan Coren

In, however, my defence, let me say that my silence sprang not from the dereliction of a major commentator's duty, but from a confidence that necessity would continue to be the mother of invention; so that our perception of probable consequences would itself be enough to empower us to manufacture the requisite antidotes. Were, that is, the Aussies genetically to cobble an apparently unbeatable attack, the MCC response would be to clone 11 Bothams; were our way of life to come under threat from a race of mice attuned to the pawfall of current cats, then men in white coats would immediately start popping sparrowhawk genes into moggie DNA to bring squadrons of feline Stealths diving noiselessly out of the sun; and as for modified foods, we were surely at liberty to choose either to read the label first, or, a bit later, to deploy our providentially useful extra digits to knit modified gloves.

But all that was my complacent view up until, as I said, a moment ago — the moment in which I spotted that chilling news story about 70 of Britain's GM test-sites which the Health and Safety Executive fears have taken inadequate safeguards against cross-pollination. In experimental furrows all across the country, the serried ranks of manipulated seedlings, tugged by February gusts, are unserrying fast. Even as I write, and you read, and we both tremble, strange mutant spores are busting out of genetic chokey, flexing their freshly cobbled muscles and taking it on the breeze-blown lam. And summarily scattered with them are all those smug convictions about anticipation and antidote which allowed me to keep silent for so long.

We can envisage no probable consequences, now, nor therefore rely upon our inventiveness to cope with them: I glance down from the loft into my garden, and, look, the snowdrops are coming up, exposing their pretty anthers for a vernal flirt. They do not know what a mistake that is. As the result, next year they might be plumdrops. As to what that might do to the worms churning beneath, who can with any confidence say? They could end up greeting the millennium with big ears on their backs, and should they not work out what an ear does in time to save themselves from hungry birds, we may well see, before the decade's out, a giant starling hurtling in from the Pavilion End on four woolly legs, disguising his googly with his udder and whistling his lbw appeal through his dorsal beak.

What's that you say? You want me, as a major commentator, to address this question so that you may rest easy in your bed tonight? Tough luck. The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind.



THE OCALAN TEST

The captured Kurdish terrorist must be given a fair trial

The dramatic midnight capture in Nairobi of Abdullah Ocalan, terrorist mastermind of the PKK Kurdish separatists, yesterday sparked off unprecedented Kurdish violence across Europe. With alarming co-ordination, Kurdish demonstrators stormed Greek embassies, seized hostages, fought pitched battles with police in some 20 cities and tried to set themselves alight. The violence and fanaticism inherent in the PKK philosophy could not have been more brutally demonstrated, nor could better warning have been given of the extremist actions Mr Ocalan's supporters will attempt across Europe and the Middle East when he is put on trial.

The circumstances of his capture are still murky. But it is already clear that Greece is paying a heavy price for its involvement in this affair. Its embassies have been ransacked and diplomats kidnapped on the suspicion that the Greek Ambassador somehow betrayed his unwelcome guest in Nairobi to the Kenyan authorities, allowing Turkish special forces the chance to snatch one of the most wanted men in Europe.

The Greek Prime Minister and Government have come under withering attack at home, largely from those who foolishly believe that anyone opposed to the Turks must be worthy of support. And Mr Ocalan's lawyers have begun a contemptuous campaign accusing Greece, Italy, The Netherlands and virtually every other country that refused him asylum of betraying his human rights.

Several points need underlining before the world rushes to judgment. The first is that Mr Ocalan himself has no respect for human rights. He is no martyr to Kurdish aspirations for a homeland but a brutal Marxist terrorist, whose bloody 14-year campaign has claimed some 30,000 lives. Turkey had every right to demand his extradition, and few should be surprised that its special forces have been deployed to capture him. And the PKK record of assassinations, anti-Turkish violence and extremism across Europe fully justifies the ban imposed in Germany and some other countries on this group as a terrorist organisation.

With his capture, however, it is Turkey that is now on trial. Ankara's fight against the PKK has been bloody, short-sighted and self-defeating. The army, which runs the campaign, has brought disgrace on Turkey with its record of torture, indiscriminate attacks on Kurdish villages and scorched earth policy. Turkish politicians have prosecuted anyone advocating normal minority rights and cultural autonomy; they have failed to make the necessary minimum concessions to stop even moderates among the eight million-strong Kurdish community seeing the PKK as their champions. As a result, Turkey has been pilloried in the Council of Europe, denounced in the European Parliament, censured by human rights organisations and refused the chance of early application to the one organisation that it regards as the embodiment of its post-Ataturk European quest — the European Union.

Bulent Ecevit, the veteran Turkish Prime Minister, was trembling with emotion at the announcement of Mr Ocalan's capture; his minority party sees unexpected advantage in next month's general election. But Mr Ecevit, the man who also ordered the invasion of Cyprus, must understand that Turkey's peace at home and its credibility abroad depend on decent treatment of the captured terrorist and on a scrupulously fair and transparent trial. The first onus will be on Turkey's Government to prove its charges against Mr Ocalan.

BLUE GENES

The Tories should beware of whipping up food scares

The Government has, for once, given the Opposition the ingredients for a good political row. The Conservatives spent much of yesterday blending public disquiet about genetically modified (GM) food with a dash of sleaze, a teaspoon of ministerial incompetence and a splash of opportunism for good measure. William Hague clearly hopes that this Government will stew in this controversy, just as the last was seared by BSE. But if the Conservatives wish to be regarded as a responsible, mature party, they must be wary of overstepping the line between echoing the public's anxiety about this new science and scaremongering.

Naturally the public demands trustworthy, independent advice about GM food. The "bond of trust", to use one of the Prime Minister's favourite phrases, has not been bolstered by revelations that Lord Sainsbury of Turville, the supermarket billionaire turned Science Minister, once owned a company which controls the worldwide patent rights for a key gene used in the modification process. Emerging just days after allegations that research into GM food may have been suppressed by officials, this news led to predictable calls for Lord Sainsbury's resignation. But there is no reason why the minister should go.

Unlike the former Paymaster General, Geoffrey Robinson, Lord Sainsbury has made no secret of his financial affairs. By transferring his company holding into a blind trust three days after becoming a minister, he appears to have abided by the rules. The purpose of such trusts is to allow individuals to share their expertise and offer advice in the sheltered world of Westminster, free from any conflict of interest. Many might be bemused that, having distanced himself from his financial interests, Lord Sainsbury should have to leave the room when his colleagues discuss GM foods, a specialist subject about which he knows more than virtually any other minister. Yet he is simply erring on the side of caution. Such timorousness is not a ground for resignation.

Most consumers will see the Conservative salvoes over the supermarket tycoon as a sideshow to the real debate over GM foods. The Conservatives are misguided in calling for a three-year moratorium on GM crops. Genetic engineering could offer untold advantages in the next century. Britain, home of Europe's largest biotechnology industry, stands to become a powerhouse in this new world. A moratorium would deter investment, blunt the country's competitive edge, and deprive consumers of the potential benefits.

The Tories would stand on stronger ground if they stuck to berating ministers for the muddle over food labelling. There is no agreement on the minimum content of GM material that must be declared. Many consumers are under the impression that "Frankenstein foods" have yet to escape from the laboratory, even though 60 per cent of processed foods contain genetically modified soya. Giving shoppers more information about what food contains is the surest way to allay their fears.

Genetic engineering is a complex issue which cannot be addressed by soundbite assurances or allegations. If Mr Hague confronts consumers' fears in an adult manner, reaffirming his belief that informed individuals should make their own decisions about what they eat, he will win plaudits. If not, he will find that food scares are creating a Frankenstein's monster which he cannot control.

HIGH SEAS AND HEROISM

A rescue is even more valiant than a race

A race pits man against man. It provides an honourable forum for human endeavour. But a rescue is even more valiant. Self-interest is sacrificed for the good of another. Yesterday, when Giovanni Soldini went to the aid of a stricken opponent in the Around Alone yacht race, he might have risked losing his place in one of the sailing world's most prestigious competitions, but he gained something even more valuable instead — the respect of fellow mariners. Naturally, the race organisers will now estimate how much time Soldini's rescue mission lost him and allow him to resume the competition, but when finally, in about two months' time, the winner is announced, it will not be the winning that the wider world will remember, but the singular act of heroism which took place along the way.

Ocean-racing offers one of the most challenging arenas for sporting heroism. Competitors match their skills against each other and against the elements. Yachts are tossed like salad among winds and waves. Over the cold, vicious emptiness of the Southern Ocean, gales can blow more bitterly than anywhere on earth. No competitors enter the Around Alone unaware that they are flying in the face of the odds. When Isabelle Autissier's yacht capsized, she was stranded far out of range even of air rescue services. Soldini, may have benefited from the most up-to-date technology in coming to her aid, but he also preserved an ancient code of seafarer's honour, placing himself in the tradition of such great mariners as Ernest Shackleton.

Modern yacht races maintain such noble traditions. In the previous Around Alone, the Briton Josh Hall was rescued by an Australian, Alan Nebauer, when his vessel sank after hitting a submerged container. Pete Goss was almost drowned in honours after he saved the Frenchman Raphael Dinelli during the Vendée Globe. But the powerful, lightweight Open 60 class boats which champion yachtsmen use these days appear increasingly unsuitable for heavy seas. Almost a quarter of the skippers who sail them into the Southern Ocean capsize. And these wide, flat vessels can prove hard to right again.

Yachtsmen realise that they cannot continue to rely on the goodwill of rescue services. An expedition, such as that which saved Tim Bullimore, can cost tens of thousands of pounds. In response, the safety of vessels is being improved. Swinging keels and cambered decks help a capsized boat to recover. In an earlier leg of the current Around Alone race, the four leading skippers, monitoring the approach of a storm, mutually agreed on an imaginary way point which would divert them safely north of the heavy weather. If this self-regulation could be tightened by a few more restrictions imposed by race organisers, the sea could prove a little less perilous, though the risk and challenge, and indeed the occassional heroism, will always remain.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Government fails to allay concerns over genetically modified foods

From Dr Erik Millstone and Professor Tim Lang

Sir, The Government has assured the public that the four GM (genetically modified) foods which have already entered the UK's food supply are entirely safe and that new GM foods will be permitted only if their safety is guaranteed. The value of that assurance is, however, undermined by the poverty of the evidence upon which it is based.

There is no general requirement that GM crops be subject to long-term feeding studies to check if they damage the health of laboratory animals. There is, similarly, no requirement to check their effects on the immune system. This was the sort of research which Dr Arpad Pusztai and his colleagues (reports and leading article, February 13) were conducting in Aberdeen.

The excuse for not requiring or conducting tests has been that those GM foods have been deemed "substantially equivalent" to the varieties already in our food supply. But this notion of substantial equivalence is tantamount to deciding not to require further tests.

Professor John Beringer, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Releases to the Environment, explained to the House of Lords Europe Committee (Lords *Hansard*, May 13, 1998, pp 2 and 3) that studies on the environmental impact of GM crops have been designed by the firms that conduct or sponsor them to ensure that no evidence of adverse impact is ever generated, and therefore almost nothing useful can be learnt from a scrutiny of the resulting data. We agree.

However safe these crops might be, consumer choice should be paramount. Consumers have been promised that strict labelling rules will be introduced next month, but they may well ask why the introduction of GM foods was permitted before the labelling rules had been set.

If the new Food Standards Agency is to be more than a genetically engineered hybrid of the Ministry of Agriculture, rules will need to be changed to ensure that none of the expert advisers, on whom policy-makers rely, may act as a paid consultant to the companies whose products they evaluate.

We have been promised by the Government that all the scientific information available to the agency will be publicly accessible. Until that happens, it will be extremely hard to evaluate the conflicting claims concerning the work of Dr Pusztai.

Surely it is time for the Food Standards Agency Bill to be promoted rapidly up the parliamentary agenda.

Yours faithfully,
ERIK MILLSTONE,
University of Sussex.
TIM LANG,
Thames Valley University,
As from: Science Policy Research Unit,
University of Sussex,
Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RF.
e.p.millstone@sussex.ac.uk
February 14.

From the Director of GeneWatch

Sir, Dr Jack Cunningham is wrong to say the Government has never received clear advice from its advisers to act to ban a GM food ("Blair resists calls for ban", February 13). In 1996, the Government's scientific advisers said that the *unrestricted* use of GM maize produced by Ciba-Geigy (now Novartis) posed "an unacceptable risk" because of concerns that the antibiotic resistance gene it contains could be transferred to organisms causing diseases, making them resistant to treatment (Biotechnology Unit, Department of the Environment, April 1996 — Notification for Consent to Market from a Member State, Ref: C/F/94/11-03).

Although the previous Government did vote against the introduction of GM maize, the decision was overridden by the European Commission and a licence for unrestricted use of the maize given in February 1997. The Austrian and Luxembourg Governments banned the import and growing of such maize. In contrast, the UK Government has taken no action.

To remain credible, the Government must follow the advice of its scientists and ban Novartis GM maize.

Yours sincerely,
SUE MAYER,
Director, GeneWatch,
The Courtyard,
Whitecross Road, Tideswell,
Buxton, Derbyshire SK17 8NY.
February 13.

From Mr Seweryn Chomet

Sir, Unlike some other human activities, all science must be practised in public; indeed it must always be published.

Your leading article, "Genetic resistance" (February 13), goes with microsurgical precision to the heart of this matter by calling for the publication of all tests on genetically modified foods. How else can consumers make up their mind about the safety of products offered to them by powerful corporations?

Yours faithfully,
SEWERYN CHOMET
(Visiting Research Fellow),
King's College London,
Strand Campus, WC2R 2LS.
February 14.

From Mrs Edwina Currie

Sir, The fuss about genetically engineered food is itself a little synthetic. There is nothing natural about an Aberdeen Angus bull, a Tamworth pig or a Cox's Pippin. Even the term "seedless fruit" is a contradiction in terms, yet we consume large quantities without a second thought.

The difference comes with the transfer of genes from one species to another. It must surely be wise to question why a potato might benefit from doctoring with a snowdrop gene, or whether it is sensible to scatter human genes about like so much confetti.

The plethora of advisory bodies does not help. Government ministers are not suffering from a lack of advice but an avalanche of it — and nearly all the data comes from those enterprises that are set to gain most.

Meanwhile the potential for genetic therapy amongst humans has slipped into the background, yet the techniques are similar. The day is close at hand when we will be able to eliminate harmful elements in embryos, such as those genes (already identified) for breast cancer or cystic fibrosis. What next: will we be tempted to make improvements, much as the plant scientists are now doing? Where are the ethics in that?

It is time for the Government to develop some strategic thinking. A genetics authority, to cover every aspect of genetic engineering in plants, animals and people, could be a long-term goal. It could commission independent research; it could set up rules and guidelines; it could license premises and projects. Its membership might include consumers, the disabled, the retailers, the clinics and the moralists.

Science is only as good, or as bad, as the uses to which it is put. Governments cannot avoid their responsibility to ensure that, as far as is humanly possible, into the foreseeable future, the gains outweigh the risks, and the risks are understood.

Yours sincerely,
EDWINA CURRIE
(Minister of Health, 1986-88),
The Tower House,
Findern, Derbyshire DE65 6AP.
February 15.

From Mr Nick Royle

Sir, The argument over genetic modification is made more important by the difficulty of determining which foods contain it, in spite of the Prime Minister's assurance (report, February 16).

As someone who would prefer not to eat such foods, I visited my local branch of Tesco's today, having called beforehand to find out the store's policy (not many GM foods, but items clearly marked). I filled my basket and then, aided by the manager, proceeded to remove three-quarters of the contents.

We then tried to replace the products with non-GM items. I ended up with virtually no packaged food. Ready-made puddings, including those purporting to be fresh, were excluded. I do feel it is time that all supermarkets clearly labelled such foods, possibly having separate non-GM sections.

As for the Prime Minister telling us that he eats GM food regularly, I seem to remember a government minister cramming a burger down his daughter's throat in similar circumstances.

Yours sincerely,
NICK ROYLE,
The Garden Flat,
98 Beaufort Street, SW3 6BU.
February 16.

From Mr Peter Whittle

Sir, Nature may not have done a perfect job in my case but I am an accommodating cove and have become used to what she created.

It is not that I am too old a dog — rather that I don't actually like the prospect of modification without the option. If the Government and supermarkets assure me that genetically modified food is safe, I instinctively want it clearly labelled so that I may avoid it.

Yours faithfully,
PETER WHITTLE,
Thrift Wood,
Pigeon House Lane, Freeland,
Witney, Oxfordshire OX8 8AG.
February 14.

Arsenal's 'fair play'

From Mr Simon Carne

Sir, It is right that Arsenal's FA Cup match against Sheffield United is to be replayed (reports and leading article, February 15). But one does wonder whether the credit rightly belongs with Arsenal's manager, Arsène Wenger. Was the idea really his? Even as he announced the offer, he rejected as "cheating" the much simpler remedy that one of his players could simply have knocked the ball into his own goal.

If the decision to replay the match is not to lead to "unscrupulous copy-cat claims", the FA should make it clear that its decision is in no way to be interpreted as overruling the referee's judgment during the game. Under the rules of football, "unsporting behaviour" is a cautionable offence, not a foul.

The referee may not stop the game for unsporting behaviour. He can only wait until the ball is out of play (in this case, in the Sheffield United goal) and then give a yellow card to the offending players, if he thought their unsporting actions deliberate.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON CARNE,
G07 Regent Court,
Wrights Lane, W8 5SJ.

From Mr David Morgan

Sir, Having witnessed the amazing scenes at Highbury last Saturday from my seat in the North Stand, I can only applaud the prompt and sensible decision of Arsenal to offer a replay to their opponents.

Most supporters still remember the similar incident with Blackburn Rovers two seasons ago, which cost Arsenal a place in the Champions League. However, they still felt that although the offending player in Saturday's match had come from the Italian league, where such niceties as "fair play" are deemed hardly to exist, this was no way to win such an important match.

Yet one has to question whether had the incident occurred in the match between, say, Barnsley and Bristol Rovers, their managers and club officials would have exerted the same influence on the FA as Arsène Wenger and Arsenal's vice-chairman, David Dein. The concept of "fair play" needs to spread right through the Premier League, Nationwide League and beyond, and if the incident promotes a debate on the general conduct of players whilst on the pitch then much good could yet come from what happened at Highbury on Saturday.

Is it too much to hope that we may even see an end to the shirt-tugging, diving and general play-acting that has become a permanent feature of our favourite sporting pastime?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MORGAN,
8a Downsway, Merrow GU1 2YA.
February 15.

Straw plan 'echoes Third Reich'

From Mr Tim de Ferrars

Sir, Some correspondents take a light-hearted view of any parallel between Tony Blair and Hitler (letters, February 11, 12, 15).

Today's report (see also leading article) that Jack Straw proposes the incarceration of British citizens for what they might do — rather than what they have done — is sinister enough to puncture the joke.

Yours faithfully,
TIM de FERRARS,
Bramble Cottage, Seymour Road,
Headley Down,
Hampshire GU35 8JX.
February 16.

From Mr Paul Hardy

Sir, Mr Michael Weigall reminds us (letter, February 11) that in February 1974 the electorate were faced with an election on the issue of "Who runs Britain?", and he suggests that the defeat of the Tory Government in that election was a vote against constitutional principle.

I hope the day never comes when a sitting Prime Minister is allowed not only to decide when a general election should be called, but to determine what the important issues to be decided in that election should be.

Mr Weigall's criticism of the electorate for getting rid of the 1970-74 Government reminds me somewhat of Hitler's complaint that the German people had proved unworthy of him.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL HARDY,
8 Jackman House,
Watts Street, E1 9PU
hardypaul@hotmail.com
February 11.

From Mr Larry Rushton

Sir, Mr Weigall really cannot blame the national electorate for the outcome of the February 1974 "miners' election".

Overall, Heath's Tories actually won nearly a quarter of a million votes more than the Labour Party. The vagaries of our medieval constituency system allowed Harold Wilson to wriggle into power by the thickness of a cigarette paper.

Yours sincerely,
LARRY RUSHTON,
10 Smith Close, Piddington,
Northampton NN7 2DW.
February 11.

Women in uniform

From Major Jeremy Monson

Sir, Your photograph today of the two new female musicians in the band of the Welsh Guards amply illustrates the absurdity of dressing women in uniforms designed for men. In the days when the Queen attended her Birthday Parade on horseback, she was clever enough not to make that mistake. She wore a specially modified version of a Footguards Colonel's full dress uniform and looked superb in it.

The MoD should learn from Her Majesty's example.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY MONSON
(Grenadier Guards, 1952-67),
Keepers Cottage, Scarletts Wood,
Hare Hatch, nr Reading RG10 9TL.
February 11.

Scattered relics

From Mr Christopher Y. Nutt

Sir, As a lawyer of some thirty years' standing, I can assure your correspondents (letters, February 8) that the relics of Saint Valentine are not in Dublin, Glasgow or Edgbaston.

No Sir, they are scattered all over the divorce courts of southern England.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER Y. NUTT,
Bancroft Park, Ablington,
Cambridge CB1 6BQ.
February 8.

'Unsafe' IRA conviction

From His Honour Joseph Dean

Sir, It seems surprising that no misgivings have been expressed in your columns about the Court of Appeal judgment quashing the 1990 conviction of Nicholas Mullen for an IRA bombing conspiracy, together with the sentence of 30 years' imprisonment (report, February 5). No irregularity was alleged concerning the conduct of the trial or the conviction or the sentence. But because the appellant had been illegally deported from Zimbabwe, and had been deprived of legal advice in that country and the chance of being deported or extradited to somewhere else, the court held that a conviction in this country was "unsafe" and the trial "unlawful".

The court rebuked the security services and the police for their failure to adhere to the rule of law; but it is not easy to see why this failure justified the retrospective acquittal of an appellant otherwise properly tried and convicted of a most murderous crime.

Yours faithfully,
JOSEPH DEAN,
The Hall, West Brabourne,
Ashford, Kent TN25 5LZ.
February 16.

**Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: *letters@the-times.co.uk***

Monitoring QCs

From Mr Alan Mackinnon

Sir, Appraisal of QCs, suggested by Mr Andrew Dismore, MP (letter, February 15), already comes in the simplest of forms. If they are beyond their prime, or insufficiently educated in their field of expertise, they will not get instructions. In reality a sitting MP in a safe seat seems far more secure in his or her position.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN MACKINNON,
71 Elsham Road, W14 8HD.
February 15.

From Mr Roger Jenkins

Sir, Whilst it is correct that our Members of Parliament are elected, surely their "selection" is, to quote Mr Dismore's reference to QCs, "from second-hand information based on secret references never made available either to applicants or the public".

Yours faithfully,
R. O. JENKINS,
Haycorns, Fairmead Road,
Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6JR.
February 16.

The English identity

From Dr Derek W. Arthur

Sir, The extensively travelled Scot, David Wilson (letter, February 13), has failed to encounter "a modest English person". I am a Scot who has no need to travel to meet one: I am married to one.

Indeed, she is too modest to claim to match Mr Wilson's qualities — "friendly, easygoing, genuine and caring" — though well-qualified to do so.

Yours faithfully,
D. W. ARTHUR,
25 Waulkmill Drive,
Penicuik, Midlothian EH26 8LA.
derek@maths.ed.ac.uk

From Mr Laurence Boyd

Sir, I agree with Miss Alice Goddard's views on national identity (letter, February 9).

Boasting about modesty is typical of the English.

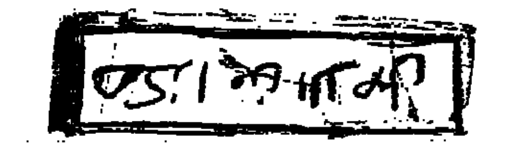
Yours faithfully,
LAURENCE BOYD,
96 Alderman Road,
Glasgow G13 3BW.
February 11.

Knot rated

From Mr Jack Norfolk

Sir, My father always said: "Never trust a man who wears a bow-tie, unless he is a gynaecologist" (letters, February 5 and 12).

Yours faithfully,
JACK NORFOLK,
2 The Street, Little Waldingfield,
Nr Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 0SQ.
February 13.





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 16: The Queen held an Investiture at Buckinghan Palace this morning.

The Right Hon Tony Blair, MP (Prime Minister and First Lord of the Treasury) had an Audience of The Queen this evening.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 16: The Duke of Edinburgh, President of the City and Guilds of London Institute, this morning received Dr Nicholas Carey, Mr Paul Wates and Mr David Young at Buckingham Palace.

His Royal Highness, Life Member, today attended a Lunch at the new Naval and Military Club, 4 St James's Square, London, W1.

The Duke of Edinburgh, Chancellor, this evening attended a Reception to celebrate The University of Cambridge's partnership with industry and business at St James's Palace.

CLARENCE HOUSE
February 16: Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Mayall today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer.

Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Andrews also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer, 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 16: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Britannia Royal Naval College, Dartmouth.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
February 16: The Princess Royal, Chancellor, University of London, this morning visited the Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, Camden, London WC1.

Her Royal Highness, Chancellor, University of London, this afternoon visited the Institute of Commonwealth Studies in its 50th Anniversary Year, at 28 Russell Square, Camden, London WC1.

The Princess Royal, later presented The Royal Association of British Dairy Farmers' The Princess Royal Award 1998 at Buckingham Palace.

KENSINGTON PALACE
February 16: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon, President, The Guide Association, held a Reception at Kensington Palace this afternoon following the presentation of Brooches to those who have become Queen's Guides.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
February 16: The Duke of Kent, Trustee, the National Museum of Science and Industry, this evening attended a reception at Spencer House, London SW1.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
RICHMOND PARK
February 16: Princess Alexandra, President of the Children's Country Holidays Fund, this afternoon attended the presentation to the charity of the "Investors in People Award" at FOCUS, Central London Training and Enterprise Council, Centre Point, New Oxford Street, London.

Today's royal engagements

The Prince of Wales will undertake engagements in Brighton, East Sussex.

Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, will attend the award's Friends' reception at Buckingham Palace at 6.00, followed by the award's annual Charter Member dinner at St James's Palace at 7.45.

The Princess Royal will visit Bakewell, Derbyshire, to view various aspects of the Bakewell Project — a scheme to secure the future of Bakewell through economic, social, business, support and training needs of the community — at 10.00; will visit Royal Crown Derby, Osmaston Road, Derby, at 11.30; as Patron, National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux, will attend Derby bureau's 60th anniversary celebration and open its new premises at Progressive Building, Sitwell Street, Derby, at 12.20; will open the new factory extension at Thorntons, Thornton Park, Somercotes, Alfreton, at 1.20; and will visit Green Gables Cheshire Home, Wingfield Road, Alfreton, at 3.10.

Hill House

Former pupils and staff of Hill House International Junior School, 17 Hans Place, London SW1X 0EP, are invited to a reception on April 23 to mark the 50th anniversary of the school's foundation and the 90th birthday of Colonel Townend. Please write to the school with your current address and dates at Hill House for full details and an invitation.

Ambassador

Mr Glyn Davies has been appointed Ambassador to Panama from March in succession to Mr Bill Sinton who will be transferring to a new Diplomatic Service appointment.

Dr H.D. Cockburn, MC

A celebration of the life of Dr H.D. Cockburn (Cocky), former Medical Superintendent, St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, London, will be held at St James's Church, Sussex Gardens, W2, on Friday, March 19, at 2.30pm.

Mr Nigel Kent-Lemon

A service to celebrate the life of Nigel Kent-Lemon will be held on Friday, March 26, 1999, at noon at Holy Trinity Brompton, Knightsbridge. All family, friends and colleagues are welcome.
A reception will follow.

Louis Schaffer

A memorial meeting in memory of Louis Schaffer, barrister of 10 King's Bench Walk, Temple, will be held in the Parliament Chamber, Inner Temple, on Wednesday, March 17, 1999, at 6.00pm. Everyone is welcome but please advise clerk if attending on 0171 353 2501.

Appointments in the Forces

RAF
Air Vice-Marshal D C Couzens to be Assistant Chief of Defence Staff (Logistics) from February 19 in succession to Major-General G Ewer.
Air Commodore: D R Williams, SHAPE, 15.2.99
Group Captain: M D Stringer, TGDA, 15.2.99; I J O MacEachern, JSCSC, 15.2.99
Wing Commander: N E Wharmby, TTT Cottesmore, 22.1.99; D R Paton, Waddington, 22.1.99; R J Elliott, Brize Norton, 24.1.99; P W Gray, Main Building, 25.1.99; N M Connell, D Air Plans, 29.1.99; M C Green, Main Building, 1.2.99; J P Squelch, Aircent, 1.2.99; C M Rackham, HQPTC, 1.2.99; M L Page, RAFIO Benson, 15.2.99; S A Waygood, MOD, 15.2.99.


RICHARD CANNON

Elizabeth Traslor, of Kent, admiring a display of camellias at the RHS Flower Show in Westminster yesterday

Snowdrops sparkle into gold

BY ALAN TOOGOOD
HORTICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

TO THE casual observer all snowdrops may look alike but closer inspection reveals that they vary greatly in size, shape and flower markings.

Foxgrove Plants, of Newbury, is providing an opportunity to study at close quarters a wide range of snowdrops at the Royal Horticultural Society's Flower Show.

Its gold medal exhibit includes one of the tallest snowdrops, *Galanthus plicatum* "Warham" with very large flowers on eight to nine inch stems. The flowers of some snowdrops are heavily marked with green, including "Merlin" and "Jacquenetta". Also very distinctive is "Trym", which has a green blotch on each petal. "Blond Inge" is marked with yellow spots.

Dwarf spring bulbs are featuring strongly at this show, which opened in Westminster yesterday. Broadleigh Gardens, of Bishops Hull, Somerset, has created a woodland garden with a Devon bank planted with a range of snowdrops, daffodils and other small bulbs. Another part of this gold medal exhibit shows the more formal use of dwarf bulbs. *Iris histrioides* "Angel's Eye", a new hybrid with clear blue flowers, is being shown for the first time.

The gold medal display of dwarf bulbs from Potterton and Martin, of Nettleton, Lincolnshire, includes a daffodil named by the nursery. Bob Potterton bought some bulbs of *Narcissus romieuxii* collected from the Atlas Mountains in Morocco in 1968, grew them on, selected out the best forms and named one of them "Treble Chance". It has large flared pale-cream flowers.

Another highlight of the show is a gold medal display of Hepaticas from Ashwood Nurseries of Kingswinford, West Midlands. These are hardy dwarf spring flowering woodland perennials with bowl-shaped or starry flowers suited to shady parts of the garden. The nurseries are showing species, varieties and hybrids from Europe, Asia, Japan and America. They are launching a new hybrid at the show — *Hepatica media* "Harvington Beauty", with pale to mid-blue semi-double flowers. It orginated in a garden in the Vale of Evesham, Worcestershire. The American species *H Americana* is very distinctive with purple flushed foliage and tiny single pale-blue or white flowers.

Other gold medallists are Burncoose Nurseries, of Redruth, Cornwall, (a display of trees, shrubs and other ornamental plants for early spring colour), and Lincluden Nursery of Bisley Green, Surrey (a colourful display of conifers).

A spectacular shrub in the RHS ornamental plant competition is *Aucuba japonica* "Picturata" with gold-splashed leaves, shown by Elizabeth Bullivant, of Zeals, Wiltshire, in the class for four trees or shrubs, for which she has gained first prize.

In the British Iris Society's early spring show, which features the bulbous reticulata irises, Berney Baughen of Downe, Kent, has scooped the major prizes: the Mini Peckham Cup for three pots, and the Patricia Linnegar Memorial Trophy for a container planted for effect.

Gold medals have been awarded to the following artists: Marta Chirino-Argenta, of Madrid (ink drawings of aquatic plants from Castille, La Mancha, Spain), and Deborah Lambkin of Dublin (watercolour and gouache paintings of Nerines).

The show, in the New Horticultural Hall, Greycoat Street, Westminster, is open today from 10am to 5pm.

Birthdays today

Sir Derek Andrews, former civil servant, 66; Mr Alan Bates, actor, 65; Dr Gordon Cook, former President, Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, 67; the Earl of Dundonald, 38; the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, KT, 75; Lord Foot, 90; Mr Bernie Grant, MP, 55; Lord Hoyle, 69; Mr Barry Humphries, entertainer and author, 65; Sir Gordon Jones, former chairman, Yorkshire Water, 72; Mr R.P. Kennedy, Head Master, Highgate School, 50; Miss Julia McKenzie, actress and singer, 58; General Sir John Mogg, 86; Mr Norman Pace, comedian, 46; Dr Claire Palley, former Principal, St Anne's College, Oxford, 68; Baroness Rendell of Babergh, 69; Miss Patricia Routledge, actress, 70; Lord Slynn of Hadley, 69; Commandant Mary Talbot, former director, WRNS, 77; Mr Benjamin Whitrow, actor, 62; Sir Anthony Wilson, former accountancy adviser to HM Treasury, 71.

Church of Scotland

The Rev Dr David Sinclair, Minister of Martyrs Church, St Andrews, to be the first full-time secretary of the Church and Nation Committee from March 22.

Breakfast

Turkish, Trans-Caucasian and Central Asian Business Breakfast Club
The Minister of State for Defence Procurement was the guest of honour at the launch of the Turkish, Trans-Caucasian and Central Asian Breakfast Club held yesterday at the House of Commons. Mr Tony Baldry, MP, and Mr Ben Chapman, MP, were the hosts. Mr Sarosh Zaiwalla, co-convenor of the Asian Business Breakfast Club, welcomed the guests.
The Ambassadors of Turkey, the Azerbaijan Republic, Georgia, Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, Mr M. Gigin, Mr Tim Eggar, Mr Tim Melville-Ross and Professor Ewan Anderson were among the speakers.

Service dinner

HMS Victory
Admiral Sir John Brigstocke, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, and Lady Brigstocke were the hosts at a dinner held last night in *HMS Victory* in aid of the Falkland Islands Memorial Chapel Trust. Among those present were:
Admiral Sir John Woodward, Sir Jack Hayward, Sir Graham and Lady Hearne, Sir Maurice and Lady Laing, Mrs Prim Hoult, Miss Patti Bloom, Brigadier and Mrs Johnny Rickett, Mr and Mrs Robin Faccenda, Mr Julian Woomer, Mr and Mrs Michael Brunton, Mr and Mrs Anthony Hudson and Mrs Marjorie Bowden.

Service luncheons

London Scottish
Colonel and Alderman Sir Paul Newall was the principal guest at a luncheon of serving and retired officers, warrant officers and senior non commissioned officers of the London Scottish held last night at Girdlers' Hall to mark the survival of the regiment after the Strategic Defence Review. Colonel R.D. Holliday, Regimental Colonel, presided.

RASC and RCT
Mr Stephen J. Norris, Director-General of the Road Haulage Association, was the guest of honour at a luncheon of the Royal Army Service Corps and Royal Corps of Transport Officers' Luncheon Club held yesterday at Mark Masons Hall, St James's. Brigadier B.C. Ridley, vice-chairman, presided.

Luncheon

Tallow Chandlers' Company
Mr R.A.B. Nicolle, Master of the Tallow Chandlers' Company, presented awards to City and Guilds vocational education students at a luncheon held yesterday at Tallow Chandlers' Hall. Professor Kevin Warwick, Reading University, also spoke.

Dinners

Coningsby Club
The Hon Francis Maude, Shadow Chancellor, was the guest of honour and speaker at a dinner given by the officers and committee of the Coningsby Club last night at the Carlton Club.

The Hon Peter Brooke, CH, MP, presided.

Chartered Institute of Building
Mr Joseph Dwyer, President of the Chartered Institute of Building, presided at the annual dinner held last night at Guildhall. Sir John Egan, Mr Paul Shepherd and Mr Anthony Bingham also spoke.

Old Westminster Lawyers
The annual Old Westminster Lawyers Shrove Tuesday dinner of lawyers who were at Westminster School was held last night at the Garrick Club. Mr Giles Wintle presided. Mr Tristram Jones-Parry, the new Headmaster, was the guest.

The Club of Rome
Professor Brian Locke was the host at a dinner-discussion of the British Association for the Club of Rome held yesterday at the Athenaeum. Dr Hans DuMoulins was the speaker.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.M.B. Collier and Miss A.J.St.C. McBride
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr Mark Collier, of Fordingbridge, Hampshire, and Mrs Susan Collier, of Punknowle, Dorset, and Alexandra, daughter of the late Mr Barrie St Clair McBride and of Mrs McBride, of Hilton, Dorset.

Mr D.S.N. Freeland and Miss R.J. Scutt
The engagement is announced between Dominic, son of Mrs Felicity Freeland, of Parsons Green, London, and Mr Neale Freeland, of Barnes, and Rebecca, daughter of Mr and Mrs Gordon Scutt, of Humbly Grove, South Warnborough, Hampshire.

Mr J.T. Green and Miss G.M. Whitmore
The engagement is announced between Jason, son of Mr and Mrs John Green, of Markbeech, Cowden, Kent, and Georgina, younger daughter of Mr John Whitmore and the late Mrs Elspeth Whitmore, of Hartfield, East Sussex.

Mr T.P. Harrison and Miss N.E. Beeston
The engagement is announced between Patrick, son of Mr and Mrs T.A. Harrison, of Horsted Keynes, Sussex, and Nicola, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs J.A. Beeston, of Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex.

Mr R.D.R. Milner and Miss G.D.M. Winters
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Milner, of Roundhay, Leeds, and Gillian, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alex Winters, of Longden Common, Shropshire.

Mr S. Piney and Miss A.E. Philpott
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Mr and Mrs Crispin Piney, of Valbonne, France, and Anna, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Philpott, of Lutterworth, Leicestershire.

Mr G.A. Powell and Miss S.A. Wilson
The engagement is announced between Gary, elder son of Mr and Mrs R.A. Powell, of Eastham, Wirral, and Sarah, elder daughter of Dr and Mrs K.B. Wilson, of Oxford, and West Bradley, Somerset.

Mr P.T. Putnam and Miss R.J. Windsor
The engagement is announced between Paul, only son of Mr and Mrs Ray Putnam, of Rodmell, East Sussex, and Rebecca, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Windsor, of Bristol.

Mr M.R. Samuelson and Miss M.C. Beadon
The engagement is announced between Mark, elder son of Mr and Mrs Peter Samuelson, of Clare, Suffolk, and Claire, daughter of Mr and Mrs Guy Beadon, of Little Newsham, Co Durham.

Mr R.N. MacFarlane and Miss B.C. Gilson
The engagement is announced between Richard Neil, younger son of Sir Neil and Lady MacFarlane, of Sonning-on-Thames, Berkshire, and Bridget Clare, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Nigel Gilson, of Kidmore End, South Oxfordshire.

Mr M.J. Rampton and Miss K.L. Braithwaite
The engagement is announced between Matthew, son of Mr and Mrs John Rampton, of Easton Lodge, Norwich, and Katie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Braithwaite, of Bullocks Farm, West Wycombe.

Mr D.C. Rees and Dr S-A. Francis
The engagement is announced between Christopher, younger son of Dr and Mrs David B. Rees, of Lake Orion, Michigan, USA, and Sally-Anne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Derrick Francis, of Swansea, South Wales.

Marriages

Mr H.J.P. Farr and Miss C.E.F. Platt
The marriage took place on Saturday, February 13, 1999, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London W1, between Mr Henry John Philip Farr, son of Mr and Mrs Bryan Farr, of Worksop, and Miss Claudie Eveline Fenwick Platt, daughter of Mr and Mrs Julian Platt, of London. Father Oliver McTernan officiated, assisted by the Rev Philip Tennant.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Willa Gray, Zoë Fircks, Claudia Esnouf and Hugo Fullerton. Mr Rupert Uloth and Mr Hugo Fircks were best men.

A reception was held at the Savile Club and the honeymoon is being spent in Africa.

Mr D.E. Hatch and Miss M.P. Clancy
The marriage took place on Saturday, February 13, 1999, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Farm Street, London W1, between Mr David Hatch and Miss Mary Clancy, eldest daughter of Mrs Clancy and the late Michael Clancy.
The bride was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Kevin Clancy. Mr Terry Wogan was best man.
A reception was held at the Savoy Hotel.

Mr W.P. Jenks and Mrs C.A. Thompson
The marriage took place on February 13, in Shropshire, of Mr William Jenks, only son of Mr Bryan Jenks and the late Mrs Anne Attwood, and Mrs Caroline Thompson, only daughter of the late Lieutenant Colonel Owain Foster and of Mrs Paddy Boden.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Arcangelo Corelli, composer, Fusignano, Italy, 1653; Selwyn Image, painter, Bodiam, Sussex, 1849; Sir Edward German, composer, Whitchurch, Shropshire, 1862; A.B. (Banjo) Paterson, poet, journalist and author of *Waltzing Matilda*, Narambla, New South Wales, 1864.

DEATHS: Giordano Bruno, philosopher, burnt at the stake in Rome, 1600; Molière (stage name of Jean Baptiste Poquelin), playwright, Paris, 1673; Johann Heinrich Pestalozzi, educator, Brugg, Switzerland, 1827; Geronimo, Apache leader, Port Sill, Oklahoma, 1908; Albert I, King of the Belgians 1909-34, killed in a climbing accident in the Ardennes, 1934; Graham Sutherland, painter, 1980.

Baron Karl von Drais de Sauerbrun patented the "draisine", the forerunner of the bicycle, 1818.
A bomb exploded at the Winter Palace, St Petersburg, in an attempt to assassinate Tsar Alexander II of Russia, 1880.
The first public experimental demonstration of Baird television was transmitted from Crystal Palace to the Dominion Theatre, London, 1938.
The British Parliament voted to join the Common Market, 1972.

Reception

British Safety Council
Sir Neville Purvis, Director General of the British Safety Council, was the host at a reception held yesterday at Armourers' Hall for the council's Diploma in Safety Management, Diploma in Environmental Management and Five Star Health and Safety Management System Audit awards.

Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. Psalm 41.1 (AV).

BIRTHS

ADAM - On 8th February, to Susan (née Edney) and James, a daughter, Harriet Victoria, a sister for Grace.

ADAMSON - On February 8th, to Kay (née Andrews) and Nicholas, a son, Edward James, a brother for Samuel.

ALDINGTON - On 10th February, to Melissa (née Trowell) and Richard, a daughter, Constance Poppy, a beautiful sister for Cecily.

ALLAN - On February 14th, to Siân (née Warr) and Andrew, a son, Thomas William, a half brother for Edward and Henry.

BREMNER - On 3rd February 1999, to Kathryn (née Crosbie) and Chris, a son, Archie James, a brother for Kirsten.

BUTTERWORTH - On January 28th 1999, to Janet (née Dibley) and Tyler, a son, Todd.

COLLIER - On February 14th, to Dominic and Rachel (née Tarnoy), a daughter, Rosa Imogen, a sister for Samuel and Louis.

DIXON-SMITH - On February 10th 1999, to Anna (née Hogg) and Adam, a son, Archie George Theodore, a brother for Guy, Kit and Harry.

DRURY - On 17th January in Peru to Alexandra (née Aranda) and Robert, a son, Maurice Robert Deniz.

ELLIS - On February 13th at St Peter's Hospital, to Donna and Mark, a daughter Holly Anne.

GELLÉR - On 14th February, in Budapest, to Caroline (née MacMahon) and Balázs, a son, Károly Michael Balázs.

BIRTHS

GRAINGER - On February 11th at The Portland Hospital, to Michelle (née Haig) and John, a daughter, Lois Abigail, a sister for Jed Alfie.

JELLEYMAN - On February 8th at The Portland Hospital, to Melanie (née Newey) and Paul, a precious son, Luke John David.

LANDON - On February 11th in London, to Jane (née Jackson) and Robin, a son, a little brother for Arabella and Henry.

McKINLAY - On February 11th, to Becky (née Impey) and Jason, a daughter, Charlotte Kate.

ROSE - On 9th February, to Sarah (née Cusens) and Colin, a beautiful son, William Rory, a brother for Eleanor and Alexandra.

SMITH - On February 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Catherine (née Oates) and Martin, a son, Henry, a brother for Charlotte.

SUDLOW - On February 10th at The Portland Hospital, to Gail and Mike, a son, James, a brother for Olivia and Josh.

VANDAMME - On February 9th at The Portland Hospital, to Brenda (née Harper) and Marc, a daughter, Emilia, a sister for Aurelia.

DEATHS

AILESBURY - Jean, Marchioness of Ailesbury, died peacefully on February 14th 1999 aged 80. Widow of Cedric 7th Marquess of Ailesbury, and beloved mother of Charles Brudenell-Bruce. Church Service at St Katharine's, Savernake Forest, Marlborough, Wiltshire, at 3 pm on February 24th 1999. Funeral enquiries to Hillier Funeral Service, tel: (01793) 522797.

DEATHS

BARRY - Wayne Christopher aged 27 - tragically on 5th February, 1999. Beloved son of Julie and a dearly loved brother, grandson, nephew and uncle. Funeral service at St. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church, Ilford at 10.00 am on Thursday, 18th February followed by burial at Barkingside Cemetery. Wayne will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Enquiries to C. Selby & Son, Tel. 0181 980 3034.

BEACH - David, after a short illness on 15th February, aged 55. Professor of History, University of Zimbabwe. Dearly loved husband of Gill, son of Norman and Joan and brother of Judy of Margate, South Africa, brother-in-law of Bob and Jean Durrell of Bramhall, Cheshire. Friend and colleague to many including distinguished academic associates worldwide. David will be greatly missed.

BEVAN - On 11th February 1999 peacefully in Brighton, Bryan aged 85 years. Funeral Service at St John's Church, Palmeria Square, Hove, on February 18th at 3 pm, followed by cremation. No flowers by request. Donations if desired to Dr. Barnardos c/o Hanningtons FD, 4-6 Montefiore Road, Hove, tel: (01273) 778733.

BROCK - Ray Barrington, MBE at Clementsdene, Oxted on 14th February, aged 91. Much loved husband of Rosemary, uncle of Diana and Nicholas. Funeral 1 pm 24th February at Worth Crematorium. No flowers please.

CAMERON - On February 11th, James McNeish of Teddington, beloved husband of Mary, father of Sheila, Michele and Ross. A Service of Thanksgiving will be held on Tuesday February 23rd at St Mark's Church, St Mark's Road, Teddington. Enquiries to T.H. Sanders & Higgs tel: (0181) 892-2611.

DEWDNEY - On 11th February Duncan Alexander Cox Dewdney, husband of the late Ann, father of Caroline and Christina, grandfather of Lydia and Great-Grandfather of Abigail. Much loved. Cremation private.

DICKINS - Kenneth Wyndham, peacefully at home, on February 15th 1999, aged 91 years. Much loved Husband of Sheila and Father to Sarah and Jane. Funeral Service at St Margarets Church Ditchling on Friday 19th February at 2.45pm. Family flowers only, but donations if desired for Sussex Archaeological Society may be sent to Bowley Funeral Service, 30 Keymer Road, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 8AN. tel 01273 841711.

ELLWOOD - John on 12th February 1999 at his home in Muswell Hill aged 75 years. Deeply missed husband of his wife Joan, loving father of Pat, Sue, Teresa, Sandra and Jennie and much loved grandad and great-grandad. Funeral Service at Marylebone Crematorium, Tuesday 23rd February at 2 pm.

FAITH - Mary, at Harrogate on 12th February. Widow of Alan. Mother of Kit, Anthony and the late Richard. A very special grandmother to Camilla, Nicholas, Hugh, Guy and James. Private cremation at Harrogate on 22nd February. Service of Thanksgiving at St Andrew's Church, Curry Rivel, Somerset on Monday 12th April at 2.30 pm. No flowers please. Donations, if desired, payable to Forsey & Son, Pound Pool, Somerton, Somerset, TA11 6LZ (for the St Andrew's Church Restoration Appeal).

FRENCH - Margaret Annis (Peggy). Died peacefully at home surrounded by her family on Sunday 14th February aged 86. A very loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral private. A thanksgiving service will be held at 2.30pm on Friday 19th March at St Mary's Church, Stoke Abbott. No flowers please but donations, if desired, to St Mary's Church, Stoke Abbott and the National Hospital for Nervous Diseases c/o A.G. Down Ltd., Funeral Directors, 66 South Street, Bridport DT6 3NN (01308-422643).

GLADSTONE - Naomi (GGG) 91 died peacefully at home - what a sport, to the very end. Anne, Jean and Kitty. A Thanksgiving Service at St Mary's Church, Oatlands, Weybridge at 4pm on 12th March.

GLENDINNING - Barbara (Boo) née Charnock-Smith, died peacefully at home on 12th February 1999. Very loving and loved wife of Michael. Private funeral. No flowers, please. Donations, if desired, to The Injured Jockeys Fund, c/o Philip Ford & Son, Dirleton House, Cainscross Road, Stroud, Glos.

HEWETT - Maurice Hewett I.S.O., passed away peacefully in hospital 13th February 1999. Funeral will take place Worthing Crematorium Monday 22nd February 3.20 pm. Any enquiries to (01903) 726324.

HUMMER - Monika. On February 15th, 1999, peacefully at home in Riehen, Switzerland, after a long illness bravely borne, Monika, aged 52. Dearly loved wife of Franz and loving mother of Kristian and Caroline. Private funeral. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund.

JOHNSON - Group Captain P.W. Johnson D.S.O., O.B.E., D.F.C., A.F.C., father of Virginia and Hugo, died on Friday 12th February aged 90. Memorial service of thanksgiving at St James's Church, Shere, near Guildford on 11th March at 11.30 am. Donations to R.A.F. Benevolent Fund. Private cremation.

KIRLEW - Dorris died in hospital on 12th February 1999, loving mother of Anna and Michael. Funeral Service at Downs Crematorium, Brighton, on Tuesday 23rd February at 3 pm. Family flowers only. Donations to Open Spaces Society c/o Hanningtons FD, 4-6 Montefiore Road, Hove, tel: (01273) 778733.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

LAWMAN - On February 13th 1999 Derek Keith the dearly loved Husband of Anne and loving Father of Nick, Sarah and Mark. The funeral service will take place on Monday February 22nd at St Mary's Parish Church, Bowdon, Cheshire at 11 am to be followed by a private family cremation. Family flowers only please, but donations for the benefit of The Marie Curie Memorial Foundation may be sent to Kenneth Dewey & Sons (Funeral Directors), 2 Grove Lane, Hale, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 8JE. Telephone: (0161) 980-7010.

LEWIS - Molly, widow of Tim (ex India and Uganda), dearly loved mother of Gail, Mandy and Tim, peacefully on 15th February. Funeral service Friday 19th February, 3.00pm at the United Reformed Church, Avebury. No flowers please. Donations instead to KUKBA c/o John Stuart Funeral Service, Castle Farm, Hillworth Road, Devizes, Wilts SN10 5HD.

LEWIS - Frances Beatrice died peacefully on February 10th aged 89. Family cremation followed by Thanksgiving Service at New Road Baptist Church, Oxford on Tuesday 23rd February at 12 noon. Family flowers only.

MACKAY - Alastair CMG, died peacefully at home on 13th February 1999, aged 87. Devoted husband of Edith, father of Margaret and Alex and much loved grandfather and great grandfather. Funeral Service at Eastbourne Crematorium at 2.30pm on Wednesday 24th February. Family flowers only.

MARPLES - Richard Ransford MSc (New Zealand) BM (Oxon) FRCPath. Died, aged 64, peacefully at home on 12th February. Cremation at Cheltenham Friday 19th February at 12.30 pm. No flowers. Donations if desired to St Luke's Hospice, 59 Harrow View, Harrow.

MATHIESON - William Allan Cunningham CB, CMG, MBE, aged 82, suddenly at home on 12th February. Beloved husband of Elizabeth and most dear father of Alexander and Rhoderick. Service at Mortlake Crematorium at 11 am Friday 19th February to which all his friends are most welcome. All flowers to Fredk. W. Paine tel: (0181) 994-0056.

MEIER - On 11th February peacefully in London, Mariann, aged 84. Much loved mother and granny. Funeral Service at Swiss Church, London on 22nd February at 11.00am. Family flowers only but donations if wished to Swiss Church, 79 Endell Street, London WC2.

MORLEY - Cecil Denis C.B.E. on 14th February 1999 aged 87, peacefully after a short illness. Beloved husband of the late Niki, father of David and grandfather of Charlotte and Nicholas. Cremation at Chichester Crematorium on Wednesday 24th February at 12 noon.

PLAYER - It was sadly learnt on February 10th that Bill Player lost his life in Zimbabwe on January 20th. No letters by request.

REES - Robert Noel, MA (Oxon). Son of the late Mr and Mrs H D Rees of Penarth. Formerly of the Secretary's Office, Bank of England. After a series of health problems, died in his sleep on the morning of Sunday 14th February, at his home in Hampstead, aged 65. A truly talented and lovable man adored by all who knew him. For details of his funeral contact John Schofield on 0171 794 2500. All welcome.

RUCK - Yvonne Marie Rougier, on February 14th widow of the late Cecil Percy James Ruck, C.B.E. Funeral at St. Andrews Church, Limpsfield Chart on Wednesday 24th of February at 2.00pm, followed by private cremation. Flowers or Donations, if desired, to Cancer Research, c/o S. Smith and Son, 127, Lingfield Road, Edenbridge, Kent, TN8 5DY. 01732 862117.

WALSHE - Peter Francis, very suddenly on February 13th 1999 at home in Winchester, aged 80. Husband of Mary, loving father and grandfather, greatly missed. Funeral Wednesday, 24th February, 12.15pm at St Peter's Winchester. Donations, if desired, to St Joseph's Hospice, Mare Street, London E8.

WATTS - Margaret passed away peacefully on 13th February 1999, at Greengates Nursing Home, Oxford, aged 90 years, formerly a music teacher at Haberdashers - Aske's School. Funeral service at Oxford Crematorium, on Monday 22nd February, at 2.15pm. Flowers and enquiries to Reeves & Pain, 288 Abingdon Road, Oxford, tel 01865 242529.

WHEALE - On February 11th 1999, peacefully in hospital, aged 66 years. The Reverend Canon Dr Gerald ("Gerry") Wheale. The dearly loved husband of Jean, and much loved father of Simon, Sarah and Jonathan and grandfather of Joseph. The service will be held at St James's Church, Moss Side, Manchester on Monday 22nd February at 1.30pm, followed by interment at Southern Cemetery. Flowers or, if desired, donations to The Stroke Association, c/o The Funeral Directors: R Pepperdine & Sons Ltd, Alexandra House, Manchester Road, Chorlton-cum-Hardy, Manchester M21 9JG. Tel 0161 881 5363.

WRIGHT - Margaret on 14th February 1999 died peacefully aged 88 years. Much loved wife of the late Maylin. Mother of Jennifer, Jane and Richard. Service at All Saints Church, Lund on Saturday 20th February at 2 pm.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

CONNELL - A Memorial Service to celebrate the life of Dr. Philip Connell CBE will be held at 1200 noon on Wednesday 3rd March 1999 in the Chapel of the Bethlem Royal Hospital, Monk's Orchard Road, Beckenham, Kent. All friends are welcome.

NASH - A Service of Memorial and Thanksgiving for the life of Joscelyne Marion Nash will be held at Turvey Parish Church, Bedfordshire on Saturday 17th April at 2.00pm.

OBITUARIES

JOHN EHRLICHMAN

John Ehrlichman, White House aide to President Richard Nixon, died on February 15 aged 73. He was born on March 20, 1925.



Ehrlichman testifying to the Senate Watergate Committee in 1973

John Ehrlichman and H.R. Haldeman, President Nixon's chief courtiers and grim keepers of the portals of the White House, were hated for their arrogance well before they took the leading roles in the Watergate scandal. Both paid for their involvement by terms in jail.

Ehrlichman was involved in Watergate right from the start. He was put in overall charge of the White House special investigations "dirty tricks" unit — the so-called "plumbers" — who organised the break-in at the Democratic National Committee at the Watergate in Washington on June 17, 1972. The intention was to replace a telephone bugging device installed in a previous break-in, which was not working. The intruders, however, were caught by a security guard.

As Nixon's chief domestic policy adviser, Ehrlichman, along with the White House Chief of Staff, Haldeman, greatly contributed to the paranoia in the White House and to Nixon's isolation from reality.

Despite the landslide re-election victory that Nixon won in 1972, the White House still felt beleaguered and was fully prepared to engage in criminal activities to foil its enemies, who included most critics of the conduct of the Vietnam War. Watergate was the tip of the iceberg of these activities, and Nixon had little time to celebrate his election victory before the scandal broke.

At first the Watergate break-in was brushed aside as "a third-rate burglary" by Nixon's press spokesman. But the scandal soon raced out of hand when Nixon desperately began a cover-up to save the necks of his "President's men".

His efforts began to collapse when the baby-faced John Dean, the White House counsel, began to suspect that Ehrlichman and Haldeman were setting him up as the fall guy to take the blame for the cover-up. When it was learnt that Dean was secretly plea-bargaining with investigators for a reduced prison sentence, Ehrlichman became the overseer of the cover-up, notoriously advising Nixon to allow the acting director of the FBI to take the blame — and to leave him "twisting slowly, slowly in the wind".

But Dean's testimony blew the scandal wide open, and Nixon realised that he would have to sacrifice his aides if he was to survive. In late April 1973 he called Ehrlichman and Haldeman to his mountain retreat at Camp David to ask for their resignations, knowing that they would be convicted for Watergate crimes.

In Ehrlichman's account of his meeting with the President, Nixon sobbed uncontrollably and said his dismissals of the pair was "like cutting off my arms". Nixon said that the night before he "almost prayed he would not wake up". Ehrlichman said he put his arms around the President and said: "Don't think that way." Nevertheless, he said he told Nixon that he regretted the President's decision, adding: "I still feel I have done nothing without your implied or direct approval." He added that he asked only that Nixon would "explain all this to my kids".

In July 1974 Ehrlichman was convicted on charges of obstructing justice, conspiracy and perjury. He served 18 months in prison before being released on parole. Nixon had once promised Ehrlichman and Haldeman that they would never go to jail. But on the eve of his resignation in August 1974 they appealed to the President to grant them a pardon before he resigned. Nixon rejected that plea.

John Daniel Ehrlichman was born in Tacoma, Washington. He graduated from the University of California at Los Angeles in 1948, after wartime service as a navigator in the 8th Air Force. In 1951 he took a law degree at Stanford. He then embarked on his career with a Seattle law firm.

At 43 he thought he was living the American dream when he became the top presidential adviser at Nixon's personal invitation. But after his trial he was to say: "I felt that every bit of pride, integrity, the winning I had strived for all my professional life had been stripped from me."

In an interview some years after his release he acknowledged that he had been "proud and vain", but said that he had come out of the ordeal with "a curious sense of freedom".

In later years he acknowleged his guilt but wanted the chapter closed. After his release he moved first to Santa Fe, New Mexico, and then to Atlanta. He became a radio commentator, and drew on his inside knowledge of politics in a number of novels. He also wrote a memoir, *Witness to Power: The Nixon Years* (1983).

Having been a 6ft 3in, 15-stone figure of fear in the White House — referred to by his enemies as Nixon's Nazi guard — Ehrlichman transformed himself after his release from prison into a relaxed, easygoing and friendly man with a fatherly beard.

His first and second marriages ended in divorce. He is survived by his third wife Karen Hilliard, and by four sons and two daughters.

LIEUTENANT-COMMANDER HORACE TAYLOR

Lieutenant-Commander Horace Taylor, GC, MBE, wartime bomb disposal officer, died on January 17 aged 90. He was born on October 23, 1908.

HORACE TAYLOR had the unusual distinction of being recommended for the George Cross by the Air Ministry — although he was serving as a sub-lieutenant in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve at the time. He had successfully defused a German parachute mine close to RAF Uxbridge in September 1940. It was only his second bomb-disposal job but he extracted the fuses without fuss.

The Luftwaffe late-summer daylight bombing offensive against London had failed, with severe losses of aircraft. But from September 9 the bombers of Luftflotte 3, based in northern France, attacked London for 57 nights without pause. More than 90 per cent of the bombs exploded on impact, bringing death and destruction, especially to the dense housing areas of the East End. The remainder did not explode and this residual sinister threat led to the demand for skilled bomb-disposal squads with steady nerves and hands.

Horace Taylor came to this exacting work from an unlikely background, yet he was both intellectually and temperamentally well-suited to it. Turned down for seagoing operations when he volunteered for the Royal Navy because of his eyesight, he wrote to the Admiralty and explained the expertise he could bring to bear. This eventually led to a course in mine clearance at the Navy's torpedo school, *HMS Vernon* at Portsmouth. The interviewing officer doubtless assessed Taylor's aptitude for meticulous analysis under pressure but must also have perceived, by the twinkle in his eye, that here was a man with a quite exceptional sense of humour.

Although defusing the bomb at Uxbridge was cited for his award of the George Cross, his first job had been infinitely more dramatic. A parachute-delivered landmine had landed across the gateway of a North London hospital holding 2,000 casualties, many of whom had been evacuated with the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk. Taylor identified the mine and knew that it had a fuse that would detonate 17 seconds after being triggered. His team dug a small "funk hole" in the ground at just the distance from the mine which



Taylor reckoned he could reach in emergency.

Booby-traps were a standard hazard so, having located the fuse, he held it in position with a stick to which was attached a length of string. While he walked to the funk hole, from where he intended to pull the string and free the fuse, there was a loud explosion. Luckily it was only the fuse detonating — the main charge was left intact. In his relief Taylor blew his whistle indicating "all safe" somewhat prematurely. This brought a flock of hospital nurses and onlookers around him to congratulate him and collect bits of the mine and parachute as souvenirs.

He kept no personal record of how many bombs and mines he and his small support team disarmed in and around London in late 1940. The citation for his George Cross covered the period from September 26 to October 17 and he would have completed several bomb disposals each day.

As the Blitz continued Taylor and his small team were deployed to the south coast ports, which the Luftwaffe found easier targets than London and inland cities.

Once, while working on a landmine in the attic of a tenement block, he suddenly realised that the defusing procedure had gone wrong. He had just time to leave the attic when the bomb exploded. It blew him clean out of the house and across into the next street, minus all his clothes and blinded by dust. His fascination with analysis remained paramount, however. He insisted on telephoning his supervising officer to explain what had gone wrong — for the safety of his and other bomb disposal teams — before he would accept a lift to hospital.

When the Blitz ended, thanks to the Luftwaffe being concentrated against Russia, Taylor turned to the mine-clearing duty for which he had been trained. Subsequently he became one of the founder members of the Royal Naval Clearance Divers.

William Horace Taylor was educated at Manchester Grammar School and at one period worked on the administrative staff of Manchester Central Docks. After the war he became a travelling commissioner for the Sea Scouts and later, from 1952 to 1974, he was a Field Commissioner for the South West of England Scout Association.

He was appointed MBE for services to the Scout movement in 1973.

He married, in 1946, Joan Isabel Skaife d'Ingerthorpe. She predeceased him. He is survived by their son and three daughters.

SIR JAMES HILL

Sir James Hill, former Conservative MP for Southampton Test, died yesterday aged 72. He was born on December 21, 1926.

A ROBUST backbench constituency MP, James Hill lived and worked in, and was thoroughly identified with, the area he represented in Parliament. Though he never held government office or wielded any particular influence, he made sure both in the House and in the letters columns of newspapers that the affairs of Southampton always seemed to be part of the political and social agenda.

He was lucky in that the city's woes often appeared to be a paradigm of the problems of urban southern England. His campaigns against drunkenness in pubs, vandalism, prostitution and the iniquities of the Dock Labour Scheme found an echo in many a middle-class bosom in places far from the port town.

But although he was right-wing, Hill's conservatism was of a commonsense rather than doctrinal sort, and he was no little Englander. A prosperous pig-breeder, in his earlier days he had nevertheless been a cautious Europhile, hoping to wield some influence as the first British chairman of a major EEC committee. He was a strong supporter of the Channel Tunnel, at one time urging the use of European Bank funds to expedite its construction. And he consistently opposed the privatisation of the Ordnance Survey.

His first tenure of the Southampton Test seat lasted little longer than the life of the Edward Heath administration of 1970-74. He was defeated at the October 1974 election, at which Harold Wilson sought to improve on the parliamentary advantage he had achieved over Heath in February that year. He came back to Parliament with Margaret Thatcher's defeat of Labour in 1979 and held the Test seat until the Labour landslide of 1997 which swept him, too, from Parliament.

Stanley James Allen Hill was educated at Regent's Park School, Southampton, and the North Wales Naval Training



College, serving the latter part of the war as a signals officer in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary.

After the war he studied electronics at Southampton University and joined BOAC, training as a pilot and navigator. His BOAC career took him all over the world and at one stage he was seconded to the United Nations flying staff in Kashmir.

After leaving BOAC, in the 1960s he became a director in a Southampton firm of estate agents and property developers. He also became a partner of Gunsfield Herd Pedigree Piggeries. From 1966 he served on Southampton City Council and in 1968 was adopted as prospective candidate for the Southampton Test parliamentary seat. In the election of 1970, which saw the defeat of Harold Wilson's Government by Edward Heath, he took the seat from the Labour MP, Robert Mitchell, by 1,802 votes.

In Parliament he was soon airing local issues such as Southampton's planning blight and the abuse of improvement grants by property developers, and was secretary of the Conservative backbench committee on housing and construction, 1971-73. He also spoke on European air transport and after being appointed a delegate to the European Parliament in 1973 he was given the chairmanship of its Regional Policy and Transport Committee. But he was out of the Commons by October 1974, narrowly beaten by Bryan Gould, having survived the Labour challenge of February that year.

He had to content himself with the arena of local politics for the next five years until the return to government of the Conservatives under Margaret Thatcher made this seat, always an indicator of overall electoral fortunes, a Tory prize once again.

For the next 18 years he was one of those hardworking backbenchers who serve on select committees, in his case European Legislation (1979-84), Transport (1993-97) and Procedure (1993-97). Although his role as a backbencher was largely to vent opinion, his one notable parliamentary success was to steer through a private Bill which gave pub landlords the power to ban violent thugs from pubs for periods of up to two years. It became law in 1980.

By now he had become thoroughly disillusioned with the European Community, castigating its Parliament and the Common Agricultural Policy. But he continued to take an interest in the Council of Europe, sitting on its Political and Legal Affairs Committee for separate periods in the 1980s and 1990s, and serving as a government whip from 1980 to 1989.

Hill had held his seat with comfortable margins of several thousands in the general elections of 1983 and 1987, but in 1992 the writing was on the wall with the stock of the Conservative Government falling rapidly. He held the seat that year but with his majority down to a perilous few hundred votes. In the general election of 1997 he was swept out of Parliament by a massive 13,684 votes. He had been knighted the previous year.

Thereafter he devoted all his time to his property interests and to breeding pedigree Large White pigs. Hill was a genial, convivial man who liked good company, dining and gardening.

He is survived by his wife Ruby, and by two sons and three daughters.

JOYCE COOMBS

Joyce Coombs, Anglican author and broadcaster, and former London Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union, died on January 17 aged 93. She was born on March 9, 1905.

JOYCE COOMBS was a devout Anglican in the High Church tradition. She made her name in the London diocese as a champion of the parochial system and of the city's Anglo-Catholic churches. In a wider sphere, she was an author who celebrated Anglo-Catholic church life in broadcasts, journalism and a number of highly readable books. She also had a distinguished career in voluntary social welfare work and as a pillar of the Mothers' Union.

She was the London Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union from 1946 to 1955 and for a short period was Central President. She served on Church Assembly and the General Synod from 1945 to 1985. In 1954, she was a London diocesan lay delegate to the World Council of Churches Assembly at Evanston in the United States, about which she voiced her criticisms on her return, much to the annoyance of the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Geoffrey Fisher.

Joyce Coombs was educated at Wolverhampton High School and Westfield College, London, where she read classics. Her family was poor, and illness and lack of money forced her to leave college at the end of her second year. For the year before her marriage in 1926 she worked at the Dockland Mayflower settlement, where the hopeless poverty prevailing in the East End horrified her. Later she became vice-chairman of Finchley and Friern Barnet Council of Social Service and a member of the British Committee of the International Union of Family Organisations, of the Central Council for Women's Church Work, and of the Church of England Moral Welfare Council.

Her task as President of the London Diocese Mothers' Union was to revive its postwar life. Under her presidency, the membership rose from 10,000 to 15,000. The most remarkable feature of her presidency was her tremendous energy: she often spoke at four or five meetings a week, her inspiring speeches earning her a reputation as a fearless and outstanding speaker.

Her long and happy marriage to Eric Coombs provided the quiet centre of her life. Their open house at Finchley was a kind of Charing Cross of the Anglican Communion. It was no surprise to be greeted at breakfast by an overseas bishop, an American nun or a former member of the Foreign Legion down on his luck, while Joyce Coombs merrily dispensed porridge and rapid repartee relevant to everyone's concerns.

In the early 1960s Coombs was invited to write a biography of the founder of the Mothers' Union. This appeared in 1965 as *George and Mary Sumner, Their Life and Times*. Encouraged by the response, she wrote other books, notably *Judgment on Hatcham*, which concerns the troubled incumbency of Father Tooth during the 1880s, and a biography of George Anthony Denison. She gathered her primary sources with great care, and all of her books share the same vivid observation of the period, a sharp wit and a sustained vitality. They give a view of Victorian Anglo-Catholicism which is fair to all parties and explains the strong passions which it evoked.

Her husband died in 1977. Then, early in the 1980s, her sight began to fail. For one of her last speeches to the London Diocesan Synod — on parish life and the work of the clergy — she had to be led to the microphone. She then spoke in support of the work of the parishes, where she believed the real work of the Church was carried out.

A move to Bournemouth in 1987 enabled her to be near two of her sons and their families. She bore her increasing blindness with great fortitude.

In her last years, she wrote movingly for *Thought for the Day* about the effects of her blindness and about facing death. Her faith in God and her belief in the Catholicity of the Church of England never wavered. Her second son, Michael, died in June 1998 but she is survived by her other two sons, Roy and Martin, who is a priest.

ON THIS DAY

February 17, 1948

The dispute over Britain's sovereignty over the Falkland Islands is a recurring one.

TRESPASS IN ANTARCTIC

WESTMINSTER, Monday

IN consequence of the challenge of Argentina and Chile in the Falkland Islands, steps are being taken by the Government to support the Governor of the Dependencies, Mr. McNeil, Minister of State, announced in the House of Commons today. He was replying to a question by Mr. Sharp (Spen Valley, Lab.), who asked whether the Argentine Government had ceased or had promised to cease their acts of trespass.

Mr. McNeil said: No, sir, Argentine and Chilean naval forces are at present operating in British waters in the Falkland Island Dependencies, with the declared object of enforcing claims to sovereignty in this area. They have also landed parties and purport to have set up military commands in British territory.

His Majesty's Government consider the British title to the Falkland Islands Dependencies to be well founded, and have been willing that it should stand the test of international arbitration. In the protests which we made to the Argentine and Chilean Governments in December last we made it plain that we would accept the decision of the International Court.

This offer has been rejected by both Governments, and we can only regard this as evidence that they have no confidence in their ability to dispute our legal title. (Cheers.)

The Argentine Government have suggested instead that there should be some form of international conference. We are considering this proposal. His Majesty's Government are always ready to seek means of settlement by discussion in disputes which arise with friendly Governments, and have never closed the door to discussion of the Antarctic question with the interested parties.

That is one thing, but it is quite another when, in spite of our declared willingness to see this question settled legally, ostentatious naval and other demonstrations are made in the areas which we administer and which everybody knows we consider to be British territory. It should not be supposed that we shall overlook the challenge to our authority. Steps are being taken to ensure that the Governor of the Falkland Islands receives the support he needs. (Renewed cheers.)

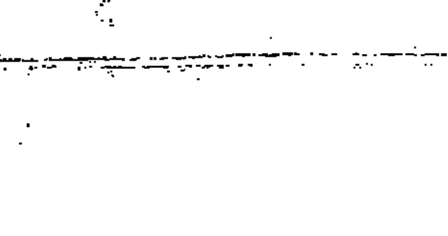
Rival claims in the Antarctic have long existed, but it has never been thought necessary by any of the Governments to create international ill-feeling or to arouse public opinion on the subject. Mr. Bevin hopes that the Argentine and Chilean Governments will share his desire to avoid provocation in this matter.

CHILEAN STATEMENT

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, Feb. 16 - An official statement issued tonight by the Chilean Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Senor Manuel Trucco, said: "Chile wishes to continue to seek a friendly settlement" of the Antarctic dispute with Britain.—*Reuter.*

BRITISH CRUISER LEAVES FOR ANTARCTIC

It was stated in London last night that H.M. cruiser Nigeria had sailed from Simonstown for Antarctic waters.



THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Girl sets fire to herself

A 15-year-old schoolgirl set herself alight as hundreds of Kurdish protesters took to the streets in support of a group of compatriots who were occupying the Greek embassy in London. As Negla Kanteper was lifted into an ambulance she gave a victory sign and chanted "long live Kurdistan." Her life was saved by another demonstrator and police officers who chased her down the road and used their tunics to smother flames which were shooting from her clothes........................Pages 1, 11

Sainsbury backs out of food meetings

Lord Sainsbury, the Science Minister, was accused of being a "lame duck" after announcing that he would leave government meetings whenever genetically modified food policy was raised. Conservatives claimed it was "ridiculous" that he had to absent himself from scientific discussions..................Pages 1, 4

Yacht rescue

The French solo yachtswoman Isabelle Autissier was rescued by a fellow competitor in the single-handed round-the-world race, after her boat capsized in the Southern Ocean...........................Page 1

Racehorses killed

Three racehorses were killed at Sedgefield after they collided with loose horses running in the opposite direction.............................Page 1

Brit awards

Robbie Williams emerged as a symbol of triumph over adversity last night after overcoming drink and drug addiction to win three coveted Brit awards..........Page 1

Executive approved

The Northern Ireland assembly set the scene for a showdown between Unionism and republicanism by approving the structure of the new executive..............Page 2

War crimes trial

The judge, counsel and jury of Britain's Central Criminal Court were led to a site in the middle of a Belarus wood where 3,000 Jews were stripped naked and machine-gunned.....................Page 3

Killer son

The son of a former Tory mayor was convicted of murdering his mother in an "explosion of emotional violence" that was likened to a Greek tragedy...........Page 5

More abortions

The health scare over the Pill is causing a crisis of confidence among women, with the number of abortions still rising......Page 6

Historic finger

The cast of a neolithic finger has helped a museum to solve a 5,000-year-old mystery: Stone Age man's fingerprints were the same as our own...............Page 9

Labour row

Senior Labour MPs moved to prevent the Welsh party descending into civil war after the result next weekend of the bitterly divisive ballot on who should head the Cardiff assembly...............Page 10

Kosovo defiance

A key commander in the Kosovo Liberation Army dismissed the possibility of disarming as part of any negotiated settlement that stopped short of giving full independence....................Page 12

Nazi holiday

Josef Mengele, the war criminal who escaped at the end of the Second World War, returned to Switzerland on holiday many times, apparently with the knowledge of the police..........................Page 13

Race murder

A Texas sheriff told a court how he found a cigarette lighter with a KKK emblem at the scene of the murder of a black man...Page 14

Winter beats the beaches

Given the choice between the palm-fringed beaches of the Bahamas and a wet winter in the West Country, most people would not think twice. But 19 technicians with Westland helicopters have turned down the chance to exchange the grey skies of Yeovil in Somerset for three months on an island described as a tropical paradise..Page 7

RICHARD POHLE

The rebuilt balconies of the Royal Opera House after the Culture Secretary Chris Smith had laid the last brick of the building's new shell

BUSINESS

Approach rejected: Barclays has rejected an approach from Royal Bank of Scotland, made in the last few weeks, which would have led to a £35 billion merger ....Page 23

Budget surplus: Britain racked up a record surplus on the public finances in January, confirming that the Treasury is heading for a large budget surplus this year....Page 23

Banks raided: Eight banks in France, Germany, Italy and Spain were raided by European Commission officials as part of an investigation into charge-fixing since the launch of the euro.............Page 23

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 98.10 to 6121.3. The pound rose 0.57 cents to $1.6334 and 0.57p against the euro to 68.45p. The sterling index rose to 101.4 from 100.5.....Page 26

SPORT

Football: Arsenal travel to face Manchester United in an FA Carling Premiership fixture that recent history has shown to play a significant role in deciding the destiny of the championship.............Page 40

Rugby union: England have included Jonny Wilkinson, the 19-year-old Newcastle Falcons centre, in the team to play Scotland........Page 44

Boxing: Naseem Hamed, who defends his WBO featherweight title against Paul Ingle in April, has announced a new six-bout deal thought to be worth more than $120 million.................................Page 41

Sailing: After the rescue of Isabelle Autissier, France's leading yachtswoman, from the Southern Ocean, is the Around Alone Race really worth the risk........................Page 42

ARTS

Thumbs down: Welsh National Opera's new production of Benjamin Britten's *Peter Grimes*, staged by the German director Peter Stein, misses the target, says Rodney Milnes...................................Page 35

Loud and clear: Purists may cry "foul", but like it or not *Tosca* is going electric when microphones and loudspeakers arrive at the Albert Hall this week.......................Page 35

Happy snapper: The Barbican Art Gallery explores Picasso's fascination with the camera and how it influenced his art....................Page 36

Record breaker: Rob Becker made history in 1996 when his *Defending the Caveman* became the longest-running solo play in the history of Broadway. Now he is bringing it to London.............................Page 37

FEATURES

Sellout: The urge to kiss and sell when a marriage fails is lamentable, says Celia Brayfield.....Page 15

Still beating: Dr Michael DeBakey is 90 years old but his hands are steady enough for him to continue his work as a pioneering heart surgeon...Page 16

Sailing on: Nigel Hawkes reports how the unsinkable Noah's Ark story continues to inspire scientific expeditions..................................Page 16

Just say no: Introducing a new series, Asha Phillips, a child psychotherapist trained at the Tavistock Clinic, explains how to say no to your child — whether a baby, a toddler, a primary school pupil or a teenager..................................Page 17

HOMES

Worrying development: The £1 billion proposal for a hotel, offices, shops and public spaces near Tower Bridge sounds like good news for the area. So why are local residents worried?...................................Page 32

THE PAPERS

The US Postal Service took the cigarette out of Jackson Pollock's mouth for his portrait of a new 33 cent stamp. While a spokesman insists this was a "design decision" that had nothing to do with the Government's anti-smoking campaign, the change is unsettling because it tells a lie, albeit a small one, about this master of abstract expressionism

— *Boston Globe*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FILMS
James Coburn, left, Sissy Spacek and Nich Nolte star in *Affliction*, a family drama

BOOKS
Yet another work loses credibility by questioning almost all of the Bible's credibility

RADIO & TV

Preview: The Countryside Alliance feud: *Blood on the Carpet* (BBC2, 9.50pm). **Review:** Why modern art is no longer a joke.......Pages 43, 44

OPINION

Midnight express

Turkey's peace at home and credibility *abroad depend on* decent treatment of Abdullah Ocalan. The Turkish Government's onus is to prove its charges. If it does so, the stiffer *moral challenge will be to* show magnanimity ....Page 19

Blue genes

If the Conservatives wish to be regarded as a responsible party they must be wary of overstepping the line between public anxiety about genetically modified foods and scaremongering.................Page 19

High seas

In going to the aid of a stricken opponent in the Around Alone yacht race, Soldini placed himself in the illustrious tradition of the greatest *mariners*...............................Page 19

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS

For all the necessary reprimands about to be visited on Sir Paul Condon and his force, I find something sickening in well-paid, comfortable, self-regulating professions excoriating as "prejudiced" those who do far tougher jobs............Page 18

MICHAEL GOVE

Mr Hague is a skilled Commons performer but his style is Classical Not Romantic.......................Page 18

ALAN COREN

I should have been there for you when *Dolly the sheep materialised*, because you suddenly found yourself scared over how long it might be before there was a Shane Warne *bowling from both ends*.....Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

No Chancellor is ever really candid about taxes...........................Page [illegible]

OBITUARIES

John Ehrlichman, Nixon aide; **Lieutenant-Commander Horace Taylor,** bomb disposal; **Sir James Hill,** Conservative MP; **Joyce Coombs,** Mothers' Union ....Page 21

LETTERS

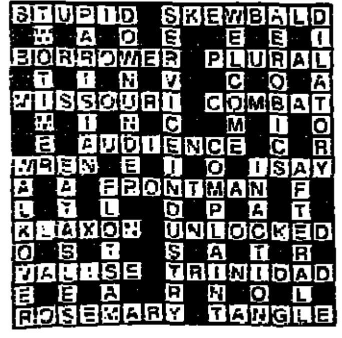
GM food; Arsenal and fair play; Labour and *Third Reich*; QCs; English identity ....Page [illegible]

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,029

ACROSS
1 Where the snow lay, one controls traffic flow (10).
6 Are we indecently close to this contentious item? (4).
9 Figure way to join up with leading commander (7).
11 Substitute one fabric with a finer one (7).
12 Temporarily transferring, consigned in new order (9).
13 A brief account of our former owner (5).
14 Flower is out (5).
15 Finally enjoying a Wagner performance that comes to the boil (9).
17 Unable to spell? How repellent! (9).
20 Labour wife seen in constituency (5).
21 Second equal of the mortal sins (5).
23 Roguish demeanour was captivating (9).
25 Very narrow lanes in depressed areas (7).
26 Ribbon also kept by dandy (7).
27 Hera upset another of Zeus's wives (4).
28 Get trained, working out in a sort of circuit (10).

DOWN
1 Turns up to look for original community (5).
2 Impression a fruit tree's almost falling over brings rash complaint (9).
3 Drink with them in party and annoy spoilsport (3,2,3,6).
4 Singer bids farewell to this baby bird (7).
5 Being in hut damaged prude's standing (7).
7 What traditionalist would want of this modern painting? (2,3).
8 Marching order brings front of regiment into view (4,5).
9 In place of orators, one contemptuous of amplification equipment? (8,6).
14 Is opposed to state making considerate gesture to loser (4-5).
16 One approaching home with serious purpose (2,7).
18 American author's coming out without one (7).
19 Quiet walk but an awkward one (7).
22 In interval, Verdi's written part for horn (5).
24 Celtic worshipper managed to take in game (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 21,028



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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.11 am. Sun sets: 5.13 pm
Moon sets: 6.55 pm. Moon rises: 7.54 am
First quarter: February 23rd
London 5.18 pm to 7.09 am
Bristol 5.28 pm to 7.19 am
Edinburgh 5.20 pm to 7.32 am
Manchester 5.22 pm to 7.22 am
Penzance 5.43 pm to 7.28 am

FORECAST

General: southern and eastern England will start chilly with occasional sunny breaks and one or two showers. Towards midday, rain will arrive in Wales and western England with snow for a time over northern hills. Cloud will then spread east, bringing rain and sleet to the rest of England by evening. Scotland will start frosty but mostly sunny with snow showers in the northeast. Rain, sleet and snow will reach the west in the afternoon. N Ireland and the Republic will be dull with rain before turning milder.

Tonight: a cold start in the east with sleet and hill-snow moving in from the west. Any snow will soon turn to rain, however, and by morning most parts will be quite mild, the rain having cleared western fringes to leave a few breaks and some patchy drizzle.

London, SE England, E Anglia, E England, NE England: cold with sunny spells and isolated showers. Rain and sleet towards evening. Fresh northwesterly wind. Max 8C (46F).

Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Islands: rain later in the afternoon, perhaps with sleet at first. Moderate to fresh west to northwesterly wind. Max 10C (50F).

SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N England: rain later, preceded by snow on hills. Light to moderate west to northwesterly wind. Max 9C (48F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: frosty but bright start. Cloudier by afternoon. Fresh northwesterly wind. Max 6C (43F).

Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: very cold with sunny spells and heavy snow showers. Strong to near-gale force northwesterly wind. Max 3C (37F).

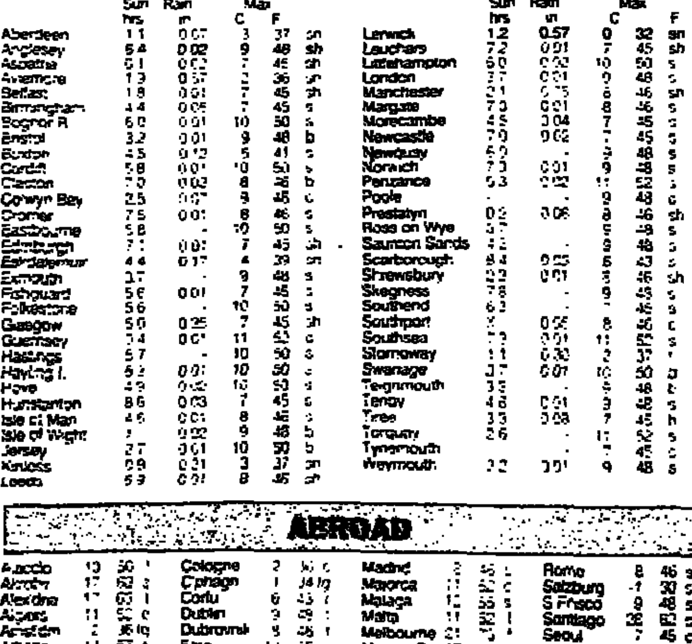
SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland: starting dry but cold with cloud increasing, bringing sleet and snow from the west, turning to rain later. Light and variable wind. Max 5C (41F).

N Ireland: early sleet turning to rain. The rain becoming heavier later but it will become mild. Light westerly wind. Max 10C (50F).

Republic of Ireland: cloudy with rain at times. Wind moderate to fresh westerly. Becoming less cold. Max 8C (46F).

Outlook: Thursday will be much milder than recently but it will be mostly cloudy with some drizzle and hill fog. The north will be wet and windy on Friday. It will then turn colder but brighter. The south will remain mild but mainly cloudy and windy with rain towards evening.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY



24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, ds=dust storm, du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, g=gales, h=hail, r=rain, sh=shower, sl=sleet, s=sun, t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	F	
Aberdeen	1.1	0.07	3	37	sn	Lerwick	1.2	0.57	0	32	sn
Anglesey	5.4	0.02	9	48	sh	Leuchars	7.2	0.01	7	45	sh
Aspatria	0.1	0.02	7	45	sh	Littlehampton	6.0	0.02	10	50	s
Aviemore	1.3	0.57	2	36	sn	London	3.7	0.01	9	48	s
Belfast	1.8	0.01	7	45	sh	Manchester	2.1	0.15	8	46	sn
Birmingham	4.4	0.05	7	45	s	Margate	7.0	0.01	8	46	s
Bognor R	6.0	0.01	10	50	s	Morecambe	4.5	0.04	7	45	s
Bristol	3.2	0.01	9	48	b	Newcastle	7.0	0.02	7	45	s
Buxton	4.5	0.12	5	41	s	Newquay	6.2	-	9	48	s
Cardiff	5.8	0.01	10	50	s	Norwich	7.0	0.01	9	48	s
Clacton	7.0	0.02	8	46	b	Penzance	5.3	0.02	11	52	s
Colwyn Bay	2.5	0.07	9	45	c	Poole	-	-	9	48	c
Cromer	7.5	0.01	8	46	s	Prestatyn	0.2	0.06	8	46	sh
Eastbourne	5.8	-	10	50	s	Ross on Wye	[illegible]	-	9	48	s
Edinburgh	7.1	0.01	7	45	sh	Saunton Sands	[illegible]	-	9	48	s
Eskdalemuir	4.4	0.17	4	39	sn	Scarborough	8.4	0.25	6	43	s
Exmouth	3.7	-	9	48	s	Shrewsbury	2.2	0.01	8	46	sh
Fishguard	5.6	0.01	7	45	s	Skegness	7.8	-	9	48	s
Folkestone	5.6	-	10	50	s	Southend	6.2	-	7	45	s
Glasgow	5.0	0.25	7	45	sh	Southport	[illegible]	0.05	8	46	c
Guernsey	3.4	0.01	11	52	c	Southsea	[illegible]	0.01	11	52	s
Hastings	5.7	-	10	50	s	Stornoway	1.1	0.30	3	37	r
Hayling I.	6.2	0.01	10	50	s	Swanage	3.7	0.07	10	50	s
Hove	4.9	0.02	10	50	s	Teignmouth	3.5	-	9	48	s
Hunstanton	8.6	0.03	7	45	s	Tenby	4.6	0.01	9	48	s
Isle of Man	4.6	0.01	8	46	s	Tiree	3.3	0.08	7	45	h
Isle of Wight	[illegible]	0.02	9	48	s	Torquay	2.6	-	11	52	s
Jersey	2.7	0.01	10	50	s	Tynemouth	-	-	7	45	s
Kinloss	0.9	0.31	3	37	sn	Weymouth	2.2	0.01	9	48	s
Leeds	5.9	0.01	8	46	sh						

ABROAD

	C	F			C	F			C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	10	50	[illegible]	Cologne	2	36	c	Madrid	[illegible]	46	[illegible]	Rome	8	46	s
Akrotiri	17	62	s	C'phagn	1	34	fg	Majorca	[illegible]	52	c	Salzburg	-1	30	s
Alexdria	17	63	[illegible]	Corfu	6	43	[illegible]	Malaga	13	55	s	S Frisco	9	48	s
Algiers	11	52	c	Dublin	9	48	[illegible]	Malta	[illegible]	52	[illegible]	Santiago	[illegible]	[illegible]	s
Amst'dm	2	36	fg	Dubrovnik	8	46	f	Melbourne	21	[illegible]	[illegible]	Seoul	7	45	c
Athens	14	57	s	Faro	[illegible]	55	[illegible]	Mexico C	17	63	s	Singapore	30	86	f
Bahrain	21	70	s	Florence	5	41	[illegible]	Miami	21	70	s	Stockholm	2	36	f
Bangkok	32	90	f	Frankfurt	2	36	s	Milan	5	41	s	Strasb'rg	2	36	s
Barbados	29	[illegible]	s	Funchal	15	59	c	Montreal	-4	25	f	Sydney	29	84	s
Barcelona	9	48	[illegible]	Geneva	1	34	s	Moscow	-4	25	c	Tangier	14	57	f
Beijing	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Gibraltar	14	57	[illegible]	Munich	0	32	s	Tel Aviv	18	64	f
Beirut	16	61	f	Helsinki	0	32	sn	Nairobi	27	81	c	Tenerife	17	63	c
Belgrade	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Hong K	22	72	[illegible]	Naples	8	46	f	Tokyo	9	48	s
Berlin	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Innsbruck	-1	30	s	N Delhi	21	70	s	Toronto	4	39	s
Bermuda	14	57	f	Istanbul	9	48	f	N York	4	39	s	Tunis	12	54	f
Biarritz	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Jeddah	29	84	s	Nice	10	50	s	Valencia	12	54	s
Bordeaux	[illegible]	46	f	Jo'burg	20	68	[illegible]	Oslo	2	36	c	Vancver	4	39	f
Brussels	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	L Palmas	15	[illegible]	[illegible]	Paris	3	37	c	Venice	5	41	s
Budapest	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Le Touquet	5	41	f	Perth	31	88	s	Vienna	0	32	c
B Aires	[illegible]	86	s	Lisbon	10	50	s	Prague	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Warsaw	-2	28	c
Cairo	19	66	s	Locarno	1	34	s	Reykjavik	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Wash'ton	9	48	s
Cape Tn	[illegible]	79	s	L Angeles	14	57	s	Rhodes	16	61	f	Wellngton	23	73	s
Chicago	[illegible]	46	[illegible]	Luxembg	1	34	[illegible]	Rio de J	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	Zurich	-3	27	s
Ch'church	17	63	[illegible]	Luxor	29	84	[illegible]	Riyadh	[illegible]	72	s				

[illegible]

NOON TODAY

ROUGH
MODERATE
MODERATE

Changes to chart below from noon: high A will see little change; low E will slide slowly across Iceland as it deepens; low V will fill and become indistinct as it floats over Finland

HIGH A
Warm front
Cold front
Occluded front

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	2:00	4.3	14:06	4.4	Liverpool	11:59	9.7	-	-
Avonmouth	7:57	13.6	20:16	13.6	London Bridge	2:27	7.3	14:51	7.5
Belfast	11:42	3.6	-	-	Lowestoft	10:19	2.4	22:21	2.6
Cardiff	7:43	12.6	20:04	12.5	Margate	0:31	4.8	13:00	4.8
Devonport	6:29	5.6	18:51	5.4	Milford Haven	6:56	7.1	19:16	7.0
Dover	11:40	6.6	-	-	Newquay	5:47	7.1	18:07	7.0
Dublin	0:02	3.9	12:10	4.2	Oban	6:31	4.2	18:46	4.0
Falmouth	6:00	5.4	18:22	5.2	Penzance	5:17	5.7	17:36	5.5
Greenock	1:09	3.2	13:30	3.5	Portland	8:00	2.1	20:28	2.0
Harwich	0:23	3.9	12:47	4.0	Portsmouth	11:58	4.7	-	-
Holyhead	11:02	5.8	23:24	5.6	Shoreham	11:53	6.3	-	-
Hull (Albert D)	7:02	8.6	19:12	9.0	Southampton	11:37	4.6	-	-
Ilfracombe	6:43	9.4	19:03	9.3	Swansea	7:02	12.5	19:21	12.3
King's Lynn	7:04	6.7	19:10	7.4	Tees	4:27	9.9	16:35	10.1
Leith	3:18	5.5	15:31	5.7	Walton-On-Naze	0:11	4.1	12:38	4.2

All times GMT. Heights in metres

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: highest day temp: Southsea (Hampshire) 11C (52F); lowest day max: Baltasound (Shetland) 0C (32F); highest rainfall: Lerwick (Shetland) 0.57ins; highest sunshine: Hunstanton (Norfolk) 8.6hrs

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BUSINESS • PROPERTY • ARTS • SPORT • TELEVISION

THE TIMES

The Toast: Richard Wilson
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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 17 1999

Treasury on target for record budget surplus

By Janet Bush
Economics Editor

BRITAIN racked up a record surplus on the public finances in January, confirming that the Treasury is heading for a large budget surplus this year.

Treasury officials were at pains to play down the figures, clearly hoping to dampen down hopes of a Budget bonanza next month. However, City economists yesterday predicted that the Treasury could achieve a budget surplus for the tax year to the end of March of as much as £10 billion compared with the Treasury's pre-Budget report projection of £4.3 billion.

The Office for National Statistics reported yesterday that Britain recorded a public sector net cash surplus of £12.4 billion in January. With only two months of the tax year to go, the Treasury has built up a surplus of £13.7 billion, an improvement of £10 billion compared with the same stage last year.

The strength of January's public finance performance was partly a result of surging income tax receipts because of self-assessment but more to do with very low growth in public spending. Cumulative departmental spending so far this year is only 2.1 per cent higher than last year against a Treasury forecast of growth of nearly 5 per cent.

Jonathan Loynes, economist at HSBC, said: "Such a favourable starting position means that the Chancellor could conceivably spend several billion pounds in the March Budget and yet still forecast that he will meet his fiscal rules with plenty of room to spare."

The City speculated that, despite the economic slowdown, which will inevitably mean that the public finances deteriorate from their healthy position, the Chancellor has enough money to deliver his promise of a 10p starting rate of income tax.

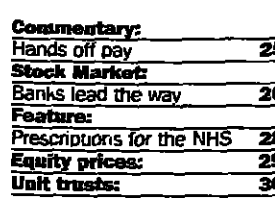
The ONS also published inflation figures for January that showed underlying inflation, excluding mortgage interest payments, had remained at 2.6 per cent, just above the Government's target of 2.5 per cent.

Headline inflation fell to 2.4 per cent in January from 2.8 per cent in December, reflecting cuts in mortgage rates. Consumer prices, using the standard European measure, nudged up to 1.6 per cent from 1.5 per cent in December.

The City had expected underlying inflation to fall back to target in January given evidence of aggressive discounting in the new year sales. Treasury officials noted that the data had been collected a week later than last year, by which time many sales had already finished. Another reason keeping the index up was a rise in the price of potatoes which had sent up frozen chip prices.

Business Today

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Janet Bush spells out her fears on the euro before joining the fight

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STOCK MARKET INDICES

FTSE 100	6108.6	(+85.4)
Yield	2.65%	
FTSE All Share	2795.39	(+33.82)
Nikkei	14232.64	(+177.92)
New York:		
Dow Jones	9335.65	(+60.76)*
S&P Composite	1246.84	(+16.71)*

US RATE

Federal Funds	5%*	(unq)
Long bond	98⁵/₃₂*	(....)
Yield	5.37%*	(....)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	5⁷/₁₆%	(5⁷/₁₆%)
Liffe long gilt future (Mar)	116.98	(117.25)

STERLING

New York:		
$	1.6320*	(unq)
London:		
$	1.6335	(1.6284)
€	1.4611	(1.4450)
SFr	2.3361	(2.3155)
Yen	193.03	(188.12)
£ Index	101.4	(100.5)

DOLLAR

London:		
€	1.1190*	(unq)
SFr	1.4283*	(...)
Yen	118.05*	(...)
$ Index	106.5	(105.5)

Tokyo close Yen 117.01

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Apr)	$10.30	($10.55)

GOLD

London close	$285.25	($289.50)

* denotes midday trading prices

Exchange rates .... Page 24

RBS merger plan rejected by Barclays

By Caroline Merrell and Jason Nissé

BARCLAYS has rejected an approach from Royal Bank of Scotland which would have led to a £35 billion merger between the two banks.

A meeting to discuss the merger was scheduled for last week but was called off at the last moment ahead of the announcement that Barclays had secured Bank of America's Mike O'Neill as its new chief executive.

The approach to Barclays was made both by phone call and letter from Sir George Mathewson, Royal Bank's chief executive, after the resignation of Martin Taylor. In the merger, the proposed board structure would have had Sir George as chief executive of the merged bank with Sir Peter Middleton, Barclays' deputy chairman, as chairman. Fred Goodwin, from Royal Bank, would have been finance director, Iain Robertson of Royal Bank in charge of retail operations and Chris Lendrum of Barclays in charge of the corporate side.

JP Morgan, which is understood to have advised on the possible merger, calculated that billions of pounds of cost savings could be brought be merging the two bank networks.

Royal Bank refused to comment yesterday. Sir Peter, however, said: "We have nothing on the stocks at the moment but obviously if something came up that was consistent with our strategy we would have to look at it. We are not letting it mesmerise us."

Sir Peter was speaking as Barclays announced a fall in profits last year and plans to embark on an extensive cost-cutting programme over the next three years. He refused to be drawn on the savings the bank was hoping to achieve though analysts said that cuts would be sure to include job losses.

Operating profits fell 20 per cent dented by huge losses in Russia, and year 2000 costs. Overall costs rose by 5 per cent last year. Operating profits were £1.99 billion compared with £2.48 billion in 1997, while pre-tax profit rose slightly from £1.7 billion to £1.9 billion.

Sir Peter said that full details of the cost reduction would be revealed in six months. He claimed that the bank had been successful in reducing costs at Barclaycard by 15 per cent.

Barclays Capital, the bank's investment arm, sustained the brunt of the losses in Russia showing an operating loss of £265 million last year (£252 million profit).

On the stock market Barclays shares rose more than 6 per cent to £16.42. Analysts said the reaction probably reflected relief that no new bad news had emerged. Shares at Barclays have now risen 25 per cent since the appointment of Mr O'Neill was announced.

The highlight of Barclays profits statement was its retail banking division which showed a strong increase in operating profits of 18 per cent to £1.51 billion from £1.28 billion the previous year.

Profits at the corporate banking division also rose by 6 per cent to £972 million from £921 million.

Analysts yesterday said Barclays results were poor when compared, for example, with the results for Lloyds TSB, where profits had risen by 10 per cent. John Aitken, an analyst with Rabobank, said: "We are disappointed that Barclays were not more specific on cost cutting." He pointed out that the cost income ratio of many of the high street banks was some 20 per cent lower than Barclays.

Bank branches	staff	cost/income	ratio
Lloyds TSB	2500	77,000	45.6%
Barclays	1950	80,000	66.0%
NatWest	1730	67,500	68.6%
HSBC	1700	42,600	54.6%
Halifax	859	30,723	40.3%
Abbey National	800	27,000	41.2%

Tempus, page 26



Sir Peter Middleton announced extensive cost-cutting

Boots foots £63m bill for share scheme

By Sarah Cunningham and Graham Searjeant

COMPANIES will face increasing pressure from shareholders to come clean about the cost of financing their options schemes following a decision by Boots, the high street pharmacist, to take a charge of £63 million this year.

Boots is setting up a qualifying employee share ownership trust (QUEST) which will hold and distribute shares connected to its save-as-you-earn (SAYE) scheme. The £63 million charge this year — likely to be an annual £20 million in future years — will be for the purchase in the market of enough shares, at 900p per share, to satisfy all existing SAYE options.

Boots said it had decided that buying shares, rather than issuing new ones, is preferable as it avoids diluting existing shareholdings.

Richard Regan, head of investments at the Association of British Insurers, applauded the move. "We welcome any move which sees companies recognising the cost of options," he said. An institutional shareholder said that he would be raising the issue with other companies following the Boots move.

Accountants pointed out that the approach taken by Boots is suited to a company with a large amount of cash at its disposal and modest expansion plans. Many other companies want to invest whatever cash they have in acquisitions or organic growth. The disadvantage to a company of acquiring the shares is that it hits the bottom line. If new shares are issued, the costs are passed straight to reserves.

David Thompson, finance director, said "We should not be deterred by the accounting treatment from doing what is right for shareholders."

Efforts to make accounting rules on executive options reflect the true cost to shareholders have so far come to little either in the UK or in America, where authorities tried to cost all options for accounting purposes.

The Accounting Standards Board is starting a study to examine treatment of share options in the same context as rights issues, share buyback and other changes in share capital.

Shares in Boots rose 32½p to 926½p as it purchased shares in the market. Analysts said the rise was technical, rather than a reaction to the new policy.

Commentary, page 25

DTI seeks evidence of pay moderation

THE DEPARTMENT of Trade and Industry is to scrutinise the next round of company annual meetings for evidence that directors are starting to moderate pay awards.

It will be looking for tougher performance targets as it prepares action against boardroom excesses. Stephen Byers, Trade and Industry Secretary, is preparing to make it easier for shareholders to vote on remuneration packages. The move follows a series of high-profile pay awards such as the £7 million package to the new chief executive of Barclays.

ONS jobs threatened by review

By Janet Bush
Economics Editor

HUNDREDS of jobs are under threat at the Office for National Statistics after a review published yesterday identified potential savings of £20 million a year, a fifth of the ONS budget.

The review by KPMG, the accountants, commissioned by the Treasury last year, suggested that, as part of a continuing drive for efficiency, 350 jobs at the ONS could be cut with a further 680 transferred to the private sector. However, it stopped short of recommending that data collection should be contracted out to the private sector, as some had expected.

KPMG said implementation of the efficiency plan would probably cost £2 million over the next year but would generate savings of almost £12 million in 2000-01, increasing to £20 million a year by 2002-03. Patricia Hewitt, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, said she would consult unions before reacting to the recommendations.

ScotTelecom chief leaves

By Chris Ayres

THE managing director of ScottishTelecom yesterday abruptly left the company ahead of its expected £2 billion stock market flotation.

Rod Matthews, 56, is credited with creating ScottishTelecom, a division of ScottishPower, from scratch in 1994. He also played a big part in ScottishTelecom's acquisition last May of Demon Internet, Britain's largest Internet service provider, for £66 million.

ScottishPower yesterday gave no reason for the departure of Mr Matthews, who was not a board member, and refused to disclose his compensation package. However, it is expected to be worth several hundred thousand pounds.

One analyst said yesterday: "They may have felt that he was the wrong kind of guy to run a quoted telecoms company. My understanding was that he was a good man but that his face just did not fit." Shares in the company yesterday rose 8p to 602.5p.

ScottishPower has appointed Bill Allan, former chief executive of Cable & Wireless's regional businesses, to replace Mr Matthews. Mr Allan, who is 45, was described by one insider yesterday as "much more conventional" than Mr Matthews.

Although ScottishPower has so far refused to confirm that it is preparing to float ScottishTelecom, it yesterday gave its strongest hint yet that a deal is on the cards.

It said: "ScottishPower has recently appointed Goldman Sachs to explore the options open to optimise value for ScottishPower shareholders from its investment in ScottishTelecom. The review is at a preliminary stage, and an announcement will be made if and when appropriate."

ScottishPower believes that ScottishTelecom could become as valuable as Energis, the telecoms division of the National Grid that was floated 15 months ago. It is now worth £2.3 billion.

Demand for Internet services from both businesses and consumers has resulted in telecoms companies being given enormous valuations. However, analysts yesterday said that ScottishTelecom's assets were not as attractive as those of Energis or other operators such as COLT Telecom, because they include a mobile phone reselling business.

EU officials raid banks

By Richard Miles

EIGHT banks in France, Germany, Italy and Spain were raided by European Commission officials yesterday as part of an investigation into charge-fixing since the launch of the euro.

Karel Van Miert, the Competition Commissioner, said he had authorised the raids after complaints that banks were conspiring to fix fees on foreign exchange and international payments amid concerns that consumers are paying excessive charges.

Mr Van Miert said: "There could have been agreements and co-operation between banks which could have gone as far as fixing of charges on change operations and costs on international payments after the introduction of the euro.

"We will see if procedures have been engaged in, which violate European competition regulations. It is a very clear warning. Competition must take place."

He named the banks as Deutsche Bank, Dresdner, Crédit Agricole, Société Générale, Banca Commerciale Italiana, Cassa di Risparmio delle Province Lombarde, Banco Bilbao Vizcaya and Argentaria, Corp Bancaria de España.

The banks could face fines of up to 10 per cent of their deposit base if officials uncover evidence of a cartel. Officials have also raided the European Banking Federation in Brussels in connection with their investigation.

News of the raids came at a special parliamentary hearing into alleged overcharging by banks. Christa Randzio-Plath, chairman of the parliamentary committee, said she had discovered that in Germany different banks were charging the same fees, and that the same went for France.

Officials are also looking into complaints that some banks are refusing to accept cheques denominated in euros. The Commission will investigate whether there is an understanding or cartel between banks to refuse such cheques.

Société Générale last night confirmed it had been raided by two EU officials and a representative of the French Finance Ministry. The bank said it expected the investigation to last 48 hours. Deutsche Bank confirmed it had received a similar deputation, but denied all the charges.

RJB talks fail to halt strike

A strike at four of RJB Mining's collieries could begin on Monday after talks with one of the main unions yesterday failed to avert a walkout.

Richard Budge, chief executive, has three more days to produce a fresh pay offer to stop the action by the Union of Democratic Mineworkers. The union last week voted 56.1 per cent in favour of a strike in protest at an imposed five-year pay deal of inflation minus 1 per cent.

Free Virgin Net

Virgin Net, the Internet service provider partly owned by Richard Branson's Virgin Communications and NTL, Britain's third-largest cable company, is today expected to launch a free Internet service. The move follows the success of Freeserve, the free Internet service recently launched by Dixons.

Littlewoods

Jim Michie, the former finance director of Littlewoods, has not, as previously stated, retired from the company. Mr Michie remains on the board as corporate development director in charge of change management in the group. Littlewoods' new finance director is Alan White, formerly of N Brown.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.66	2.48
Austria Sch	21.10	19.44
Belgium Fr	62.13	57.17
Canada $	2.567	2.379
Cyprus Cyp £	0.8907	0.8192
Denmark Kr	11.45	10.56
Egypt	5.77	5.16
Finland Mkk	9.24	8.49
France Fr	10.05	9.27
Germany Dm	3.020	2.778
Greece Dr	497	458
Hong Kong $	13.48	12.28
Iceland	128	108
Indonesia	17807	12807
Ireland Pt	1.2051	1.1161
Israel Shk	6.96	6.30
Italy Lira	3004	2767
Japan Yen	208.05	190.52
Malta	0.668	0.609
Netherlds Gld	3.410	3.115
New Zealand $	3.17	2.94
Norway Kr	13.19	12.25
Portugal Esc	305.38	283.35
S Africa Rd	10.67	9.71
Spain Pta	254.57	235.78
Sweden Kr	13.75	12.65
Switzerland Fr	2.490	2.272
Turkey Lira	576968	538618
USA $	1.739	1.596

Rates for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to traveller's cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

PETER TREVNOR



Hats off: John Morgan, chief executive of Morgan Sindall, the specialist regional construction group, which increased its pre-tax profits 34 per cent to £9.76 million in 1998 on turnover that improved 28 per cent to £425 million. The group's earnings rose 35 per cent to 22.15p a share. The total dividend is lifted to 6.5p a share from 5.25p, with a final 4.45p.

ECB's refusal to cut rates angers euroland ministers

By Saeed Shah

THE European Central Bank has again set itself on a collision course with euroland's leading politicians by refusing to accept a case for immediate cuts in interest rates.

Its monthly bulletin, published yesterday, claimed that monetary and financial conditions "are favourable for sustained growth of output and employment in the euro area in line with price stability".

This is in sharp contrast to the regular warnings of economic slowdown by the French and German finance ministers. Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, warned the ECB again on Friday that "playing a waiting game is an exceptionally hazardous strategy". He said that both jobs and growth were under threat from deflation.

He also raised the stakes with the ECB by threatening to break the Stability Pact — if it did not respond with lower rates — by boosting demand through the fiscal route.

The ECB has consistently said that it would need to see clear signs of deflation before cutting its lending rate. Yesterday's bulletin, and recent comments by Wim Duisenberg, the ECB's President, sees "the continuation of favourable prospects for price stability in the euro area", with healthy credit growth suggesting a lack of deflationary risks.

The clash of views sets the stage for a tense meeting of the ECB governing council tomorrow, the fortnightly forum at which rates are decided.

In a Reuters poll of ten economists, none expected a rate cut from the ECB, although nine of the ten anticipated a rate cut "later this year".

Also working against a rate cut is the euro's weakness against the dollar. Yesterday it fell to record lows of $1.1161, a decline of more than 6 per cent from its launch high of $1.1906 on January 4.

Robin Aspinall, chief European economist at National Australia Bank, said the ECB would have to cut rates eventually because there was no sign of any inflationary danger.

He said that the ECB was resisting a cut because it distrusted the fiscal discipline of Europe's politicians. He said that the ECB deliberately kept its inflation target vague, as simply "below 2 per cent", so that it would not be beholden to the bidding of politicians once it meets its target.

The ECB is also known to think that interest rate cuts will not have much effect on unemployment. It favours structural reform of the labour market to reduce unemployment.

Japan acts to reduce strength of yen

By Robert Whymant in Tokyo

JAPAN yesterday acted to rein in galloping long-term interest rates and weaken the yen by announcing plans to resume purchases of government bonds while cutting back new issuance of ten-year bonds.

The announcement, which sent Japan government bonds (JGB) and the yen sliding, and boosted share prices, marked a change of tack by the Ministry of Finance, which had previously favoured a strong yen.

Kiichi Miyazawa, Finance Minister, said the MoF would reduce its planned March issue of ten-year JGBs by Y400 billion (£2.09 billion) and instead issue a similar amount of two-year and six-year bonds, which would be more easily absorbed by investors.

Secondly, Mr Miyazawa said the Ministry's Trust Fund Bureau would resume buying up outstanding government bonds.

Fears of a glut in the government bond market had sent bond prices reeling. The concerns were triggered by the Government's plan to issue Y30 trillion in fresh debt in the coming fiscal year to fund massive economic stimulus spending.

Bond prices were pushed sharply lower by December's announcement that the Trust Fund Bureau, which manages postal savings and public pension premiums, would no longer play its traditional role of principal JGB buyer.

Mr Miyazawa's announcement yesterday gave an immediate lift to JGB prices. The benchmark yield plunged at one point to 1.86 per cent, down more than a quarter of a percentage point, and closed at 1.985 per cent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

RAC strategy sparks shake-up at AA

THE Automobile Association will have to consult its 4.5 million members if it receives a takeover offer or its executives choose to seek to float Britain's largest motoring organisation. At a meeting of the AA yesterday, a motion was passed ensuring that all matters that a listed company would normally put to their shareholders would have to be voted on, by post, by all AA members. The AA is, like a building society, a mutual organisation owned by its members, although there have been fears that the executive could make fundamental changes to the company simply on a show of hands of members attending the annual meeting.

The move comes in the light of the high-profile, on-off strategy for the future of the Royal Automobile Club. After its controversial agreed sale to Cendant was called off because of competition fears the RAC is now aiming for a flotation.

Firms off shame list

THE remaining 21 top investment companies on the "name and shame" list set up by the Government over the 1980s pension mis-selling scandal were yesterday removed from it. The Personal Investment Authority said they had made enough progress in clearing up priority cases, in which the pension holder has already retired or has died. Of the 41 big groups involved in the scandal, 29 had a New Year's Eve deadline to sort out 90 per cent of priority cases, but only eight met it.

Gala's bingo success

BINGO, a once moribund sector, is alive and kicking, according to figures from Gala Clubs, Britain's biggest operator. The independently owned group lifted profits by 22 per cent to £29.1 million last year, with like-for-like admissions up 1 per cent — the first rise since the launch of the National Lottery and scratchcards. Gala, a £279 million buyout from Bass a year ago, will be further boosted by the acquisition in July of Ritz Bingo for £36 million, taking its clubs to almost 150.

Cadoro chief goes

EGON VON GREYERZ, the executive chairman of Cadoro, the troubled Capolito Roma retail chain, yesterday left the company as it emerged that Victory Corporation, the Virgin clothing and toiletries wholesaler, had moved to clear its £1.97 million bank debts. He also resigned as a non-executive director of Victory, of which he has been a director since Virgin took a 10 per cent Cadoro stake last year. Victory is currently conducting due diligence with a view to taking over Cadoro.

Accountants back Bill

A SPECIMEN Bill to allow limited liability partnerships for accountants and other professionals has won approval from the Commons Trade and Industry Select Committee (TISC). Graham Ward, vice-president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, welcomed the TISC report. It argues for looser eligibility rules that would allow, for instance, the advice arms of accountancy firms to have limited liability.

Leeds & Holbeck rise

LEEDS & HOLBECK Building Society reported a 36 per cent rise in mortgage lending to a record £538 million in 1998, almost doubling in two years. Savings balances also rose by a record £278 million to £2.46 billion and total assets increased by 9 per cent to £3.12 billion in the year to December 31. Pretax profits rose 26 per cent to £24.1 million. The building society resisted attempts to convert to a bank in January.

Brussels fights American law in WTO

By Carl Mortished
International Business Editor

THE European Union will launch another legal attack in the transatlantic trade war with the US at the World Trade Organisation. Brussels is requesting an investigation into the powerful American legislation that has enabled the US to threaten £500 million of punitive tariffs against Europe in the long-running banana war.

Brussels is challenging the legality of section 301 of America's 1974 Trade Act. According to officials in Brussels, it sets the US Administration on a unilateral timetable to trade sanctions that contravenes World Trade Organisation rules. The US is likely to block today's request to establish a panel on section 301 at the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body. However, such a move would merely shift the request to a later date.

Brussels appears to be running a campaign against what it regards as illegal domestic US legislation on trade. Last June the European Union launched a challenge against America's 1916 Anti-Dumping Act, claiming that it breaches WTO rules because it allows US federal courts to impose criminal penalties on importers found guilty of dumping. US steel producers have been using the 1916 Act to file claims against European steel producers for unfair competition.

Steel troubles, page 27

Byers goes 'fat cat' clubbing



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Government ministers do not have their pay linked to productivity, despite their enthusiastic adherence to the principle on behalf of the rest of us. But if they were to be rewarded for every time they voiced concern over the level of directors' pay, several members of the Cabinet could be heading towards millionaire status by now.

Stephen Byers is the latest to indulge in the "fat cat" clubbing routine. The Trade and Industry Secretary is issuing veiled threats that companies had better start exercising restraint on salaries, or else. Or else what? That is the problem that has left ministers merely mouthing their rhetoric while remuneration consultants leverage up their fees.

Mr Byers's brainwave is, apparently, to try to persuade the Stock Exchange to alter its rules so that shareholders would have to vote each year on the remuneration of individual directors. Has Mr Byers ever sat through the proceedings at a typical agm? If so, he would not have much expectation of his idea producing radical change. Rarely do the hands not go up on cue, whether to accept the dividend, approve the over-paid auditors or congratulate the chairman. The real shareholder power, of course, is exercised well away from the public meetings when major investors tell companies what they think and expect directors to listen. Failure to do so may be tolerated for a time but, eventually, results in the sort of action we have seen recently at Sears and Mirror Group.

Institutional investors do not share the Government's distaste for hefty pay packets. The multimillion pound deal offered to Mike O'Neill was greeted with an instant upturn in the share price, even though it included, in the first year, that antithesis of performance-related pay, a guaranteed bonus. Investors have realised that, in the global economy, salaries cannot be restrained to the levels that the TUC would advocate. That might not please Mr Byers but, apart from insisting on the annual vote, what can he do? Legislation restricting the level of pay rises would cripple companies' rights to manage their businesses. Radicals might suggest another remedy to Mr Byers: a higher rate of income tax to hit the fat cats.

All the investors want to see is results: and the assurance that they can rely on the figures they are seeing. To that end Boots is to be congratulated on laying bare the cost of its share option scheme. It has already abandoned the executive version but a quarter of its staff benefit from the SAYE version. Now the full cost of the obligations this confers on the company will be plain to see. Investors will be keen to see other companies follow, not least because of the buy-back it involves, but could be disappointed. Pressure should be put upon them. Options are effectively deferred remuneration costs. That they can be hidden at the moment can store up nasty surprises for the future.

Barclays' royal prerogative

When Barclays had no chief executive, no finance director and was calling a one-time spin doctor out of retirement to be caretaker chairman, it suddenly looked an alluring partner in the great bank merger stakes for any rival with a decent settled management. There would be no problem deciding who should fill the top jobs in the merged entity. As Glaxo can confirm, this is the key issue in mergers, whatever the financial or industrial logic.

Royal Bank of Scotland may not have been the only suitor. It is certainly not the first you would think of. Even in dog days on Lombard Street, Royal has less than half the market value of its temporarily rudderless rival.

More to the point, it is Scottish. Had it not been of that ilk, Royal would not exist. it would have merged with Standard & Chartered back in 1980, or have been taken over against its wishes by HSBC, depending on how Nero-like the old Governor of the Bank of England was feeling towards his upstart colonial charges.

In the event, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission vetoed both deals on the ground that Scotland needed its own banks if it was to prosper as more than a branch-factory economy. That argument divided both Scots and others at the time. There is nothing the Scottish financial establishment likes better than selling its granny for a groat. The arguments have scarcely changed since.

If anyone bridges the national and financial divide, it is Sir George Mathewson, boss of Royal Bank and icon of Scottish development. Sir George felt that he could avoid being asked to drink tartan hemlock by taking the initiative and, in effect, making a reverse takeover of Barclays, perhaps with a little help from his Spanish allies at Banco Santander, temporarily distracted with their own domestic mega-merger.

Regional banks such as rival Bank of Scotland still have a role. For bigger fry such as Barclays, however, the drive for consolidation is compelling. As Barclays had abandoned any grand ambitions under Martin Taylor, the choice was to become the UK end of someone else's global bank or a bigger part of an essentially Anglo-Saxon financial group. Royal Bank, with its Big English, North American and insurance interests, is somewhere in between. It deserved to be taken seriously, not be put down.

Sir Peter Middleton, the masterful new chairman of Barclays, has some spinning to do to his own shareholders.

Gordon's readies reckoner

The Chancellor has been carefully husbanding our resources. His tax collectors have been taking more of our money from us and he has been frugal in what he has doled out to other ministers to give back to us. The result is yesterday's whacking surplus in the PSBR.

The markets were surprised by the figures. After all, Mr Brown has done significantly better than his own forecasts, contained in the pre-Budget report made only last November. Perhaps the Treasury model needs retuning if, by the end of January, the picture can look so different to the one on which Mr Brown had been working.

But the result is that he will be able to step up to the despatch box next month with some readies to hand out to voters. The 10p starting rate for income tax would now be within his budget. He could even do it without abolishing the married couples allowance or mortgage interest relief. Far better, however, to throw a few scare stories into the market place first so that, on the day, middle Britain can breathe a sigh of relief. It has already allowed Mr Brown to snaffle billions from its back pocket virtually without protest.

The ACT trick, however, is one that cannot be repeated. It was a nifty way of swelling the Government coffers but balancing the books will prove harder in the future, as corporate profits plunge and the one-off benefits of the move to self assessment fade. He cannot be too generous.

Number crunch

PETER Ellwood, of Lloyds TSB, who knows about purging counting houses, and KPMG, which likes outsourcing information technology to firms like itself, have advised what you might expect for the Office for National Statistics. The carrot is that ONS would keep the £20 million a year projected savings to sharpen its services. If they believe that, they'd believe Gordon Brown. ONS had better make sure it has enough statisticians left to count out 1,030 staff no longer needed.

Sema eases City misgivings with on-target results

By Chris Ayres

SEMA, the London-listed information technology group headed by the enigmatic Frenchman Pierre Bonelli, yesterday reported upbeat full-year financial results, but said it had still not made a move into the American market.

The company said last year that it was prepared to spend up to $1 billion (£600 million) on a US acquisition as it sought to narrow the gap with big competitors such as EDS, Andersen Consulting and IBM.

Although Sema pleased the City with on-target results yesterday, it came under fire from some analysts over its increased emphasis on producing software products.

The company's main activities are outsourcing and systems integration, and it has recently won big contracts with Société Générale and the Olympic Games. Its clients are mainly telecoms companies and financial institutions, with the company recently scaling down its interests in the defence markets.

Sema has enjoyed some success with its products — which include pre-pay billing systems for mobile phone companies — but the division has not yet made a profit. The company yesterday vowed that the division would be profitable by next year, and would help the company win new, long-term systems integration contracts.

However, George O'Conner, an IT analyst at Granville, the broker, said yesterday: "This could be seen as a change of personality in Sema. Most people invest in the company because of its systems integration and outsourcing services. There is a premium on IT services, not IT products. With more emphasis on products, Sema becomes a riskier proposition, and vulnerable to sudden shifts in technology."

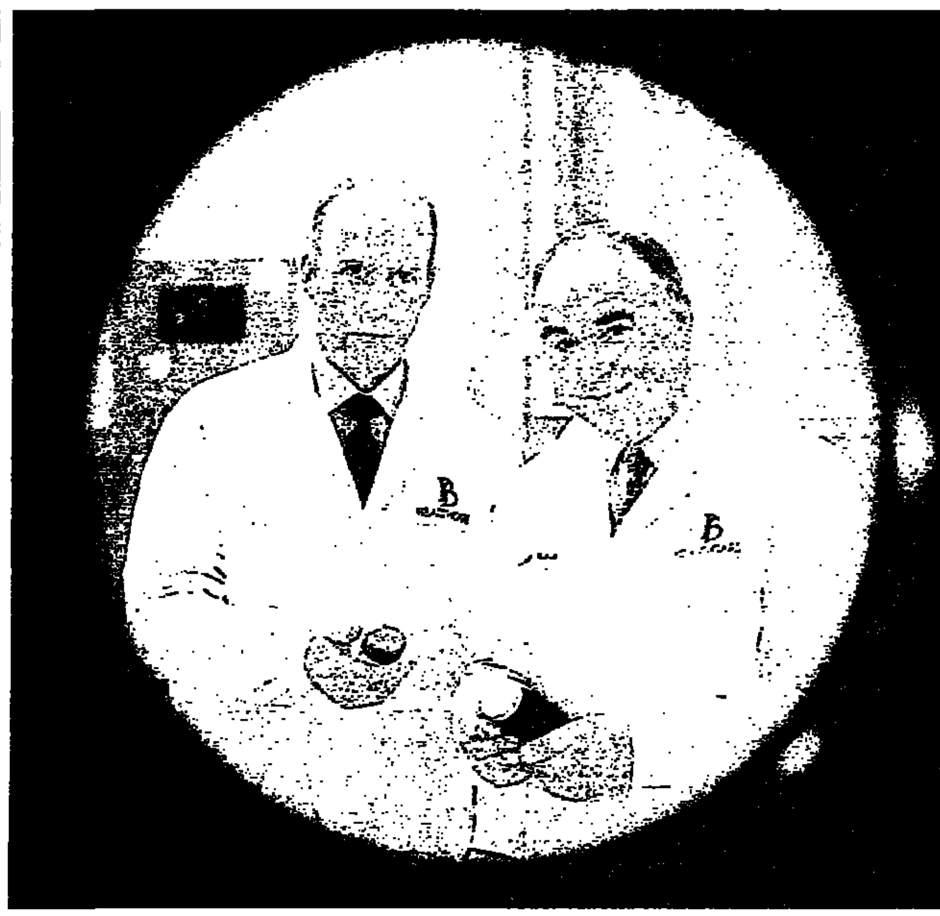

Bonelli: upbeat on prospects

Sema — whose main shareholders include France Télécom and the French bank Paribas — reported a 31 per cent rise in pre-tax profits on continuing activities for the year ended December 31 from £57 million to £75 million, on sales of £1.2 billion, up 19 per cent from £990 million. Earnings per share rose 30 per cent from 9.4p to 12.2p.

M Bonelli yesterday described 1998 as "an intense and pivotal year". He said: "Sema, while delivering very strong performances, has reshaped itself to concentrate on its chosen high-growth markets and to continue to exploit its unique positioning as a provider of a complete range of services."

He added that Sema's faster growth in the second half, plus its strong order book and strong cash position, were "indicators of future growth". Sema will pay a final dividend of 1.46p on July 1, up from 1.12p, bringing the total payment for the year to 2.3p, up from 1.82p.

Tempus, page 26


Stephen Lister, left, Peter Black's chief executive, and Gordon Black, chairman, yesterday

Black beats M&S blues

PETER BLACK, the maker of toiletries, cosmetics and shoes, yesterday showed itself to be one of the more resilient suppliers to Marks & Spencer (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company unveiled interim pre-tax profits of £12.7 million, up from £11.3 million, on turnover of £107 million (£95.5 million). Gordon Black, chairman, said: "We have made progress with Marks & Spencer and welcome everything they are now doing, particularly the increased emphasis on marketing."

A number of clothing suppliers to M&S, which gave a profits warning after a disastrous autumn, have announced job cuts.

Black's figures were lifted by inclusion of Ferrosan UK, a maker of herbal remedies, which it acquired in late 1997. It had sales of £9 million.

On fully-diluted earnings per share of 13.64p (12.66p), there is an interim dividend of 1.9p (1.75p).

Tempus, page 26

Watchdogs failing over 2000 bug

By Carl Mortished

THE National Audit Office has warned Britain's utility regulators that more work is urgently needed to protect the public from potential life-threatening disasters caused by Year 2000 computer failures in the water, gas, electricity and telecoms industries.

Offer, the electricity regulator, is singled out as being well behind its peers in not discussing contingency plans with electricity companies.

The NAO also criticised the regulators for relying too much on assurances from the companies that Year 2000 preparations are underway.

In a report published today the NAO, the government watchdog, describes how computer failures caused by an inability to recognise dates at the turn of the year could jeopardise essential services and cause serious economic damage if electricity, gas or water supplies were disrupted.

"Such failures could threaten loss of life, for example, if people could not call an ambulance because their telephone did not work, if they could not heat their home, or if contaminated water entered the public supply," the report said.

The report concludes that regulators have inadequate knowledge of what companies are doing to address the problem. It gave warning that some companies would not be Y2k-compliant until well into the second half of the year and that certain regulators were relying on assurances rather than seeking independent assessment of the preparedness of the companies.

According to the NAO, all the key utility companies have drawn up inventories of systems that could face potential problems. Twenty-five companies told their regulators that they expected to be millennium-compliant by the end of last year with a further 29 ready by the first half of 1999. However, 11 utilities, ten of which are water companies, did not expect to be ready until the end of 1999.

Moreover, the NAO insists that checking systems is not enough and accuses the regulators of having little information on the companies' contingency plans to deal with disasters. "Companies need to allow for the possibility that equipment and systems may still fail as a result of the millennium problem."

According to the NAO, Offer, the electricity regulator, is well behind Ofgas, Oftel and Ofwat insofar as it has not yet even discussed contingency planning with electricity companies.

VAT inspectors enlist IT aid

By Jason Nissé

VAT INSPECTORS are to have their armoury strengthened with the provision of laptop computers that they will be able to plug in to a Customs and Excise information network while visiting businesses.

The laptops, part of a £500 million information technology revamp by Customs, are being supplied by a consortium of ICL, Racal, Mitsubishi and Microsoft in a Private Finance Initiative deal.

The ICL consortium will also take over responsibility for the current desktop computer technology at Customs and build the new information network. The deal means that 370 backroom Customs staff will be transferred to ICL.

The network will enable VAT inspectors to call up all the information Customs has on a business during a visit, rather than check the figures when they return to the office. This should speed up the VAT inspection process, enabling businesses to know what they have to pay and Customs to collect it far more quickly.

The system will provide desktop IT for all 24,000 Customs staff, and will help support anti-fraud, anti-drugs and trade information sections of the Government department.

The £500 million deal is the third large outsourcing contract won by ICL in the last 10 weeks. It follows the award of the £200 million Elgar contract to revamp the information systems of the Department of Trade and Industry last December and the controversial £183 million contract for new magistrates' courts systems awarded last month.

ICL's successful run on winning Government contracts has come since it linked with Microsoft to form a global alliance to bid for outsourcing deals. The Government outsourcing market in the UK is estimated to be worth more than £1 billion a year.

Sotheby's Nets art dealers

By Jason Nissé


Brooks: pre-empted rival

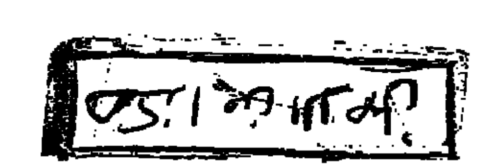
SOTHEBY'S has stolen a march on its main rivals in the auction market by signing up more than 1,500 of the world's leading art, antiques, books, jewellery and collectibles dealers to its new Internet service.

The auction house launched the service last month and approached the world's top dealers, offering them an attractive deal on commissions for the website sothebys.com, but telling them they only had seven days to decide whether to sign.

Although the British Antiques Dealers' Association complained about the pressure tactics, it has become clear that most leading dealers believe that they would miss out if they did not sign up.

The move was seen as an attempt by Diana Brooks, president of Sotheby's, to sew up the market before Christie's, its main rival, could launch a rival service. Christie's is planning to publish details of its Internet sales operation in the next few weeks. The Sotheby's service is expected to be up and running in the summer. Dealers will supply details of the items being sold through sothebys.com, which will publish them and then take bids over the Internet.

Experts in the art market believe that antiquarian books, collectibles and prints will be the most easily saleable on the Internet.





Banking sector takes FTSE past 6,100 level

STRIP out the banks and there was not a lot left for investors to chew over yesterday.

Between them they accounted for a large part of the market's rise which carried it back over the 6,100 level. At one stage, it came within 46 points of its all-time closing high of 6,179.0 achieved last July.

The FTSE 100 index closed 85.4 up at 6,108.6, while the FTSE 250 index finished just 23.7 up at 5,200.9. A total of 1.08 billion shares were traded.

Barclays led the way with a leap of 102p to £16.92, fuelled by the better than expected profit numbers and dividend payout. **Woolwich**, up 17½p at 365½p, was also wanted ahead of results later today.

Also reporting later today is **Allied Irish Bank**, 30½p better at £11.32½p. There has been persistent talk of a bid for the Republic of Ireland's biggest bank with **Lloyds TSB**, 22p firmer at 904½p, reckoned to be considering an offer of £16 a share.

BP Amoco, down 11p at 856½p, was a nervous market ahead of results later today. Brokers are bracing themselves for a further downturn in profitability.

Sir Clive Thompson's **Rentokil Initial** climbed 23¾p to 438¾p after Schroders, the broker, reiterated its "buy" recommendation on the shares.

The buyers came in for **Eurotunnel**, up 11p at 84p, amid suggestions that financier Vincent Bollore wants to take a sizeable stake in the debt-laden group.

Marks & Spencer failed to make the most of the bullish trading conditions being enjoyed by the rest of the market with the price closing virtually unchanged at 367½p ahead of tomorrow's presentation for brokers. They will be looking for reassurance that M&S can be steered back on course after last year's profits setback and subsequent boardroom upheaval.

RJB Mining fell 2½p to 63p as the threat of industrial action took a step nearer. Miners have secured the majority vote needed to proceed with strike action.

Rio Tinto was also a nervous market, falling 35p to 791p, reflecting fresh falls in metal prices.

Speculative buying hoisted **SIG Group** 6½p to 180½p. There is persistent chatter among the speculators that **CRH**, the Irish building products group, steady at £11.23, is poised to bid up to 250p a



Neville Davis saw Compel Group shares climb after the IT services company reported strong interim profit figures

share which would value the business at £295 million.

Aggregate Industries firmed 3p to 65½p, helped by a recommendation from Warburg Dillon Read, the broker, which prefers it to **RMC Group**, down 9p at 727p.

A strong interim performance from **Compel Group** was rewarded with a rise of 16p to 480p. The information and technology services group, headed by Neville Davis, the chairman and chief executive, raised pre-tax profits from £3.66 million to £4.97 million. SG Securities, the company's own broker, has already raised its forecast for the full year to £11.2 million.

Environmental Protection Services was steady at 9¼p after Stephen Dean, chairman, sold 22.35 million shares, or almost 30 per cent of the company, at 9.8p. The shares have been bought by a consortium headed by Charles Ryder and James Orr, who will then become chairman and finance director respectively. Mr Dean will concentrate his efforts on Artisan (UK), which was demerged from EPS back in December, last year. AIM-listed **Artisan** closed ¼p firmer 4½p.

Sherwood Group continued to reel from the failure of its management buyout with the price dropping 3½p to 27½p. **Booker** shed a further 8½p at 56p in the wake of this week's news of 600 job losses and heavy write-offs totalling £23 million relating to the disposal of its wholesale foods business.

An upbeat message to shareholders lifted **Bradstock Group** 3p to 39p. They were told that the insurance broker had won good new business and that the impact on profits would be greater next year.

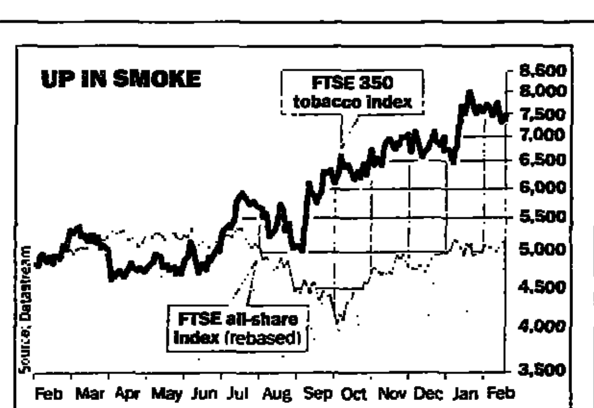
Voss Net jumped 21½p to 65p after it offset the impact of a placing designed to raise £125,000 with news of an Internet supply agreement. It has signed a four-year agreement with Free Computers for Education to provide free Internet access to schools. It will receive a percentage of the telecom charges generated.

Over on Ofex, shares of **Talbex** were suspended in late trading at 3p. It seems an unknown number of shareholders have been approached with an offer to buy their shares at 3p. As the company was unaware of any such document being issued, it called for a halt to trading so that a false market was not created.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Evidence of the healthy state of the government coffers provided the springboard for some useful gains among bonds. But the rise in the inflation numbers took some of the edge off the market and meant that shorter-dated issues underperformed the rest of the market.

A late sell-off in the futures pit left prices well below their best levels of the day. The March series of the long gilt was 14p dearer at £117.12. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose £1.04 to £148.35, while among shorter-dated issues Treasury 7 per cent 2001 shed 8p at £107.6.

☐ **NEW YORK:** Shares were near their highs in late morning trading. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was up 60.76 at 9,335.65.



A REQUEST by the plaintiffs of the Leigh Day action lawsuit to delay the Court of Appeal hearing brought some relief to London's three quoted tobacco companies.

BAT Industries rose 16½p to 612½p. Imperial Group 43p to 754½p and Gallaher 21p to 444p.

News of the delay led to speculation that the plaintiffs were considering abandoning their case. Sentiment was further enhanced by a government decision blocking the NHS from taking court action to recoup the cost of treating lung cancer victims.

The Leigh Day plaintiffs had their case rejected last week because they had waited too long to bring the case.

However, last week, one US smoker was awarded $51.2 million by a US court against tobacco producer Philip Morris.

Karl Green, at Charterhouse Tilney, the broker, said: "The judge made strong comments which questioned the substance of some of the claims."

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	9335.65 (+60.76)
S&P Composite	1246.84 (+16.71)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	14232.64 (+177.92)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	Closed
Amsterdam:	
AEX Index	522.84 (-0.47)
Sydney:	
AO	2859.4 (-18.4)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	4904.68 (+25.13)
Singapore:	
Straits	Closed
Brussels:	
BEL20	3403.37 (-4.66)
Paris:	
CAC-40	4052.32 (-12.87)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	1364.90 (+4.70)
London:	
FT 30	3697.7 (+48.0)
FTSE 100	6108.6 (+85.4)
FTSE 250	5200.9 (+23.7)
FTSE 350	2892.9 (+36.3)
FTSE Eurotop 100	2775.72 (+21.12)
FTSE All-Share	2796.39 (+33.82)
FTSE Non Financials	2829.27 (+14.00)
FTSE Fixed Interest	157.45 (+0.51)
FTSE Govt Secs	114.67 (+0.48)
Bargains	93374
SEAQ Volume	1084.6m
US$	1.6334 (+0.0057)
Euro	0.6845 (-0.0057)
£ SDR	1.1745
Exchange Index	101.4 (+0.9)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
RPI	163.4 Jan (2.4%) Jan 1987 = 100
RPIX	161.8 Jan (2.6%) Jan 1987 = 100

RECENT ISSUES

AIM VCT	100		...
Abbey Natl Dublin Inv	88		...
Acorn Income Fund	101½		...
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Cap	98		..
BFS O'seas Inc & Gwth Inc	120		..
Close Bros Dev VCT	100		...
Gander Properties	7¼		...
Jupiter En Zero Dv Pf	106	-	½
Jupiter Enhanced Inc	98		...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Ambient Media n/p (49)	¾	...
Peptide Therapeutics n/p (78)	22½	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Euro Sales Fn	305	+ 45	+ 17.3
Macro 4	520	+ 75	+ 16.8
Eurotunnel Uts	84	+ 11	+ 15.0
Haden MacLn	44½	+ 5	+ 12.6
JBA Hldgs	135	+ 14	+ 11.5
Quarto	63½	+ 6	+ 10.4
Moorfield Est	21½	+ 2	+ 10.2
Royalblue	492½	+ 42½	+ 9.4
Quadrant Health	85½	+ 7	+ 8.9
SEET	24½	+ 2	+ 8.8
Bradstock	39	+ 3	+ 8.3
Superscape VR	197	+ 15	+ 8.2
AMVESCAP	607¼	+ 44¼	+ 7.8
PSD	425	+ 30	+ 7.5
Nat West	1379	+ 97	+ 7.5
Albemarle & Bd	71½	+ 5	+ 7.5
Mountview	1900	+ 131¼	+ 7.4
Sun Life & P	513½	+ 34½	+ 7.2
Kingfisher	701	+ 47	+ 7.1
Energis	1617½	+ 107½	+ 7.1
Royal & Sun Al	543¼	+ 34¼	+ 6.7
Versailles Grp	104½	+ 6½	+ 6.6
Barclays	1692	+ 102	+ 6.4
Guardian IT	605	+ 35	+ 6.1

FALLS:

Stock	Close	Chng	Chng%
Havelock Euro	57½	- 12	- 17.2
Hampton Trust	13	- 2	- 13.3
Booker	56	- 8½	- 13.1
ISA Intl	40½	- 6	- 12.9
Coffee Rep	10½	- 1½	- 12.5
Sherwood Group	27½	- 3½	- 11.2
Silhern Pacific	85½	- 9¾	- 10.2
Low & Bonar	165	- 15	- 8.3
Internet Tech	140	- 11	- 7.2
Austin Reed	105½	- 8	- 7.0
European Mtr	68	- 4	- 5.5
Sims Food	35½	- 2	- 5.3
Oil Search	55½	- 3	- 5.1

TEMPUS

Barclays' fair shares

SHARES IN Barclays Bank are now worth fully 25 per cent more than just before the appointment of the new chief executive, less than a week ago. It is clearly encouraging that the succession is resolved. Yesterday's results contained no unexpected horrors, which was a relief. The commitment to cut costs, at the same time as continuing with the share buyback programme, was cheering. Soothing words about the future profitability of Barclays Capital, the problem investment banking child, helped sentiment. Persistent rumours of bid activity, and the convincing logic supporting merger, also buoys the stock.

But there is a danger that the share price is racing ahead of itself. Michael O'Neill has not got his knees under the desk yet. His immediate task will be to set about cutting overheads but cost reductions have proved difficult to eke out of Barclays in the past and with such a sprawling empire the exercise may not be as straightforward as some hope. Barclays Capital remains tricky — the Russian debacle was a bad one-off but this part of the group may disappoint again.

Moreover the profitability of the underlying banking businesses is not as strong as, say, Lloyds TSB. And while comparisons with the doyen of the sector may be demanding, the share price indicates that the two are held in similar, if not quite equal, regard.

Most of the good news coming from Mr O'Neill's appointment and from the cost cutting is already in the share price. This is precipitate and the share price may weaken in the coming weeks. But Barclays is attractive for longer term reconstruction hopes, and because it may be bid for. Buy on the dips.

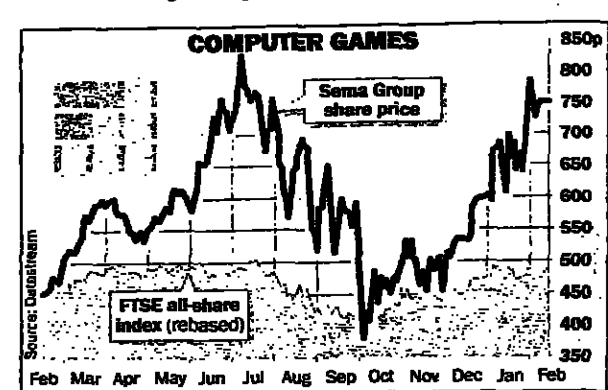
Sema Group

SOME might think that the miserable share price reaction to the 32 per cent increase in profits at Sema Group, the information technology company, was churlish. But Sema has its problems.

It has still been unable to identify a suitable acquisition candidate in the US. An acquisition is required if Sema is to break into the truly global league. Half of the world demand for computer consulting comes in the US. But Sema is dithering badly. If and when it does buy, however, the cost is sure to exert significant financial strain.

It is also worrying that Sema is concentrating more and more on developing software products. Undoubtedly this is part and parcel of offering solutions to computer and network problems. But it is also losing the company money. Sema's management is not popular either. All information technology stocks carry risks, and those like Sema whose shares trade at 50 times forecast earnings have little room to make mistakes. A glance at Sema's recent share price performance indicates how volatile life as an IT stockholder has been, too. Yet such is the growth potential in computer network building and servicing that no investor can afford to ignore IT. Particularly when such big tracts of the London market are made up of shares offering much less exciting growth possibilities.

Sema, one of the largest IT stocks, is especially hard to ignore. But the price remains vulnerable. Only hold.



Peter Black

PETER BLACK is at pains to point out that, while it is a major supplier of Marks & Spencer, it has not been suffering like many of the textiles firms that depend so heavily on the St Michael retailer.

That is hardly surprising, but yesterday's results suggest it is also true. Despite the well-documented problems at the nation's favourite retailer, Peter Black is doing reasonably well supplying it with shoes, vinyl bags, cosmetics and toiletries. Underlying profits growth, excluding the recently acquired Ferrosan UK (which makes Natracalm sleeping pills) were up by just under 5 per cent. This is not as impressive than the headline 12.1 per cent figure, but no less respectable for that.

Peter Black has a strong balance sheet and is sensibly investing in factories. Unless it delivers quality goods at low cost, its franchise will soon disappear offshore. It has done well so far and merits its continued support.

Buying into Peter Black represents an M&S opportunity if you want exposure to upside at the retailer but are unsure of when the recovery at M&S will start. Its business is steadied with the likes of Superdrug and Tesco also as customers. It is also in some of the less poorly performing retail product areas.

Moreover, Peter Black has shown it can cope with a downturn at M&S, and it should benefit quickly from an upturn in trade. Add.

Low & Bonar

THE paper and packaging industry has been a brutal playground for shareholders in recent times. The best to hope for from this poor, benighted sector is that industry consolidation might deliver them into the hands of a takeover.

Results yesterday from Low & Bonar suggest that trading conditions are likely to worsen. The company reported lower than expected profits at £46.2 million but more worrying was the accompanying statement from Jim Heilig, chief executive. He gave warning that Bonar would endure falling sales and squeezed profit margins this year. Current year profit forecasts were cut from £48 million to £41 million.

It is not difficult to see why packaging and paper companies are hurting so bad. There is excess capacity and weak demand. At 165p Bonar shares trade on a prospective p/e ratio of six times. Such a rating would be attractive if the industry showed hope of growth but on fundamentals is fully deserved here.

Yet Field Group, another UK packaging outfit, is currently being chased by two US companies. Depspite the trading weaknesses hopes of bid action is good enough reason to hold on to Bonar shares.

EDITED BY ROBERT COLE

COMMODITIES

LIFFE

COCOA

Mar	318-317	May	[illegible]
May	[illegible]	Jul	
Jul	[illegible]	Sep	
Sep	[illegible]	Dec	
[illegible]	[illegible]		

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)
CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	10.00	-0.30
Brent 15 day (Mar)	10.10	-0.30
Brent 15 day (Apr)	10.35	-0.35
W Texas Intermediate (Mar)	11.50	n/a
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	11.65	n/a

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

LIFFE WHEAT (close £/t)		LIFFE BARLEY (close £/t)	
Mar	71.50	Mar	75.50
May	72.85	May	77.00
Jul	74.70	Sep	74.25
Sep	73.90	Nov	76.50
Nov	75.00	Jan	78.50

ROBUSTA COFFEE; WHITE SUGAR (FOB); MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION; PRODUCTS ($/MT); IPE FUTURES (GMT Ltd) GAS OIL; BRENT; LIFFE POTATO (£/t); RUBBER; LIFFE BIFFEX; LONDON METAL EXCHANGE (Official) — [illegible]

LIFFE OPTIONS

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Mar 99	117.94	117.46	116.62	116.98	37123	98708
	Jun 99	116.70	118.35	118.22	117.92	635	3816
5-Year Gilt	Mar 99				108.50	0	63
	Jun 99				108.29	0	3
Italian Govt Bond	Mar 99	113.33	113.59	113.29	113.32	9696	13650
Japanese Govt Bond	Mar 99	129.79	130.49	129.76	130.70		2383
	Jun 99	128.79	129.18	128.56	129.52		233
3-Mth Sterling	Mar 99	94.700	94.710	94.650	94.690	21255	189486
	Jun 99	95.000	95.030	94.920	94.990	[illegible]	193573
	Sep 99	95.110	95.120	95.036	95.096	25463	123148
3-Mth Euribor	Mar 99	96.925	96.970	96.950	96.950	[illegible]	142738
	Jun 99	97.050	97.075	97.050	97.045	[illegible]	116160
	Sep 99	97.100	97.110	97.085	97.090	[illegible]	87148
	Dec 99	96.870	96.855	96.820	96.825	[illegible]	73148
	Mar 00	97.000	97.005	96.990	96.990	[illegible]	51700
3-Mth Euroswiss	Mar 99	98.660	98.690	98.660	98.660	[illegible]	87165
	Jun 99	98.590	98.610	98.580	98.600	5175	64440
3-Mth Euro Libor	Mar 99	96.955	96.970	96.955	96.960	[illegible]	167732
	Jun 99	97.050	97.070	97.050	97.045	[illegible]	126109
	Sep 99	97.095	97.110	97.095	97.090	[illegible]	122694
	Dec 99	96.850	96.850	96.845	96.825	[illegible]	79429
	Mar 00	96.990	97.000	96.990	96.990	[illegible]	94460
FTSE 100	Mar 99	6048.0	6119.0	6035.0	6020.0	[illegible]	170283
	Jun 99	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	6056.5	290	[illegible]

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks [illegible] Finance House 6
Discount Market Loans: Overnight high 5¾ Low 3 Week fixed 5[illegible]
Treasury Bills (Dis): [illegible]

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	
Sterling Money Rates: Interbank:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Local Authority Deps:	[illegible]	n/a	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Dollar CDs:	4.96	n/a	4.91	4.97	[illegible]
Building Society CDs:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth	Call
Dollar:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Sterling:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Yen:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Canada:	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open: [illegible] Close: [illegible] High: [illegible] Low: [illegible] AM: [illegible] PM: [illegible]
Krugerrand: [illegible]
Platinum: [illegible] Silver: [illegible] Palladium: [illegible]

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mid Rates for [illegible]	Range	Close	1 month	3 Month
Copenhagen	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Euro	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Montreal	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
New York	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Oslo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Stockholm	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Tokyo	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]
Zurich	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Source: Excel

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.5673-1.5698
Canada	1.4972-1.4982
Denmark	6.6450-6.6480
Euro	1.1180-1.1188
Hong Kong	7.7483-7.7488
Japan	118.05-118.15
Malaysia	3.7900-3.8000
Norway	7.7055-7.7155
Singapore	1.6978-1.6988
Sweden	7.9190-7.9290
Switzerland	1.4293-1.4298

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.6300-1.6400
Australia dollar	2.5643-2.5675
Bahrain dinar	0.6050-0.6192
Brazil real*	3.0865-3.0965
Cyprus pound	0.8330-0.8518
Euro	1.4590-1.4611
Finland markka	8.5410-8.6802
Greece drachma	461.75-472.25
Hong Kong dollar	12.6582-12.6653
India rupee	68.17-69.77
Indonesia rupiah	13753.0-14353.0
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4875-0.4989
Malaysia ringgit	6.1917-6.2111
New Zealand dollar	3.0323-3.0398
Pakistan rupee	79.45 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.8425-5.9799
Singapore dollar	2.7675-2.7703
S Africa rand (com)	9.8920-10.1108
U A E dirham	5.6950-6.0336

Barclays Treasury * Lloyds Bank

FTSE VOLUMES

[illegible]	1,371	Land Secs	1,765
ASDA Gp	16,502	Legal & Gn	3,986
Abbey Ntl	[illegible]	Lloyds TSB	20,450
Alliance & Leic	[illegible]	LucasVarity	6,962
Allied Dom	[illegible]	Marks Sp	6,797
Allied Zurich	4,531	Nat Grid	6,417
Amvescap	3,199	Nat Power	6,453
AB Foods	[illegible]	NatWest Bk	12,075
Bk of Scot	[illegible]	Norwich Un	5,252
BAA	7,065	Orange	[illegible]
Barclays	16,490	P & O	3,236
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

WALL STREET

	Feb 16 midday	Feb 12 close
[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]

Beware the path of least resistance

Even in a mature democracy such as ours in Britain, a line of least resistance approach to the greatest issues of state can develop. So it is — dangerously — with the European single currency.

Since the euro was launched, a small camp of previous don't knows appear, according to a recent Guardian/ICM poll, to have decided that they would now vote yes in a referendum on Britain's membership of the euro. Judging from conversations I have had since the euro started, the thinking behind this switch seems to go something like this: the euro has worked and if it is all right for the rest of Europe, it should be all right for us; now that the euro has started, it is inevitable Britain will have to join and there is no point fighting against it.

This air of resignation — still a minority view — is no doubt welcome to those in Government who appear to regard Britain's membership of economic and monetary union as an article of faith, including, we believe, the Prime Minister. If the sense of inevitability is gently encouraged, so the democratic majority against Britain joining will be gradually whittled away, whether or not Gordon Brown's economic tests for entry are met and whether or not the argument has genuinely been won.

Coupled with such subliminal encouragement from the Government is something of the atmosphere that reigned on the Continent in the years before the euro became fact. Speaking out against the great project was treated as unpatriotic. Economists working for state-owned French banks were actually barred from expressing any negative sentiments about France's *franc fort* policy and the drive towards EMU. Dissenting voices were subtly — and, in the case of Bernard Connolly, summarily — marginalised.

Britain is (I hope) too individualistic a country easily to bend to the propoganda of Government. It is as unlikely to accept a bald statement from the Government that the euro is good for you as it is to accept Tony Blair's assurances on genetically modified food or a previous administration's assurance that post-Chernobyl lamb was absolutely free from radiation.

Nevertheless, there is a palpable reluctance among many senior members of the establishment to oppose the Government's pro-euro line publicly, whatever their private convictions, so great is the new Labour majority and so far-reaching its patronage as it tries to build a coalition of the centre to embed semi-permanent power. There are people at the highest levels in both the Bank of England and the Treasury who have serious doubts about Britain joining the euro, but they are not heard.



The question of whether Britain should join the single currency is of the most intense national gravity — too important for opinion of whichever colour to be silent. There is an extremely important economic debate to be had about the wisdom of the project and of Britain's potential part in it. The Chancellor's five economic tests for entry — America and apple pie aspirations such as whether Britain will prosper and create jobs — do not begin to touch on the central economic issues thrown up by any single currency zone, wherever in the world. The argument, a month into an unprecedented experiment in economic and financial engineering, that the euro has "worked", betrays a deep misunderstanding.

There is also a political debate of matchless historical importance to be had, not just about whether the British people want, irrevocably, to give up national sovereignty, but also about the direction that the European Union, now dominated politically by the 11-member eurozone, is taking. Expressing concern about the political future of Europe and Britain's relationship with it is too often belittled by some euro-enthusiasts who dismiss questioning souls as backward-looking, xenophobic, anti-European, little Englanders.

Britain, as a committed member of the EU, ought to be asking serious questions about the political direction of Europe, as should every other member.

We should be talking about the lack of democratic accountability of Europe's institutions — the European Commission and the European Central Bank. We should be discussing how best to integrate the former communist nations to the east into a democratic Europe, a far more difficult task now the euro is here. We should not assume that, within the EU, qualified majority voting should become the norm — even for matters of foreign and security policy. We should constantly be questioning the pace of integration apparently being advocated by France and Germany.

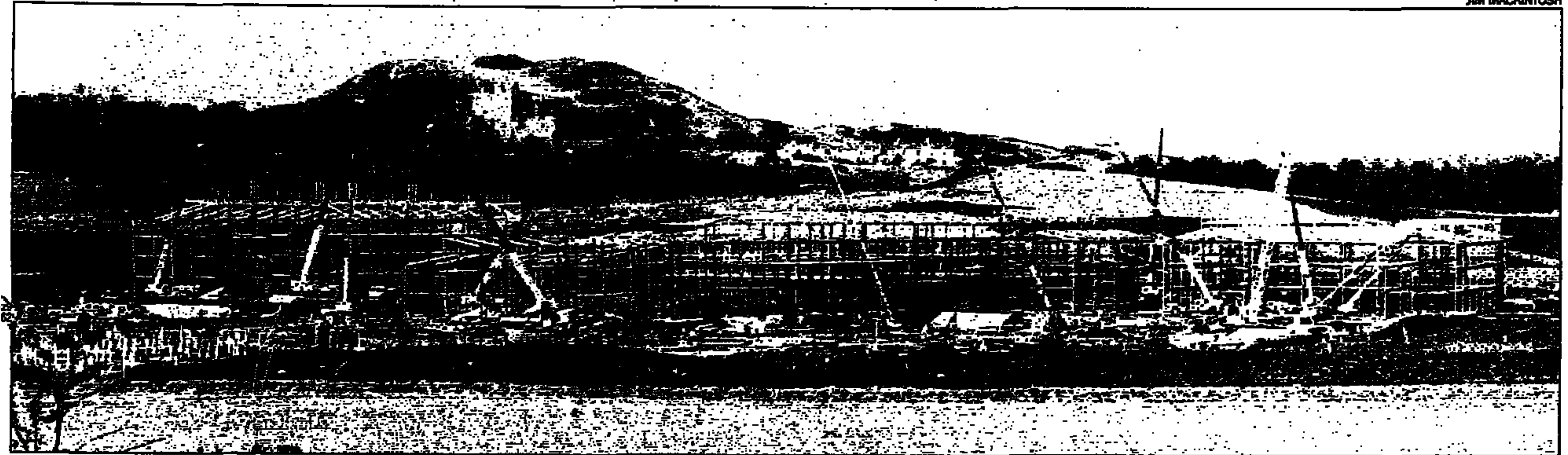
Some voices in Britain are now arguing that, because of the creation of euroland and its euro, Europe's path and the model of its development is now set in stone: irreversible, unchangeable. But history does not work like this. Much is still up for grabs, the European model is still forming and it still has many flaws. There are still choices about the future to be made. Just because the euro has been launched does not mean different ideas of the future have been permanently sidelined.

These voices also argue that, outside euroland, Britain will have no leverage to determine the future — a *reductio ad absurdum* that we must give up our sovereignty to retain any power. That, if true, would be ample testament to how undemocratic a beast a euroland-dominated EU is becoming.

I must, at this point, declare an interest. This is my last column for *The Times*, probably this year, because I am taking a leave of absence to serve as director of a new, non-party political group, to be launched shortly, that will argue for a constructive, committed and imaginative British approach to Europe but against Britain's membership of the single currency.

Resuscitated PFI offers ailing health service the kiss of life

JIM MACINTOSH



Construction work on the New Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and adjoining medical school is one of the largest PFI health schemes in the UK. The cost has been put at £180 million



CHRIS ELLIOTT says radical thinking will enable the private sector, through the Private Finance Initiative, to help the National Health Service

The Private Finance Initiative (PFI) is much maligned and much misunderstood. It is not a privatisation nor is it a mechanism for transfering responsibility for clinical services to the private sector. It is merely a way for National Health Service trusts to obtain non-clinical services. What PFI seeks to achieve is for the NHS Trusts to determine the services they need and then contract with the private sector to provide them. It is not the private sector which determines, for example, the bed number or the clinical mix of services within a hospital.

In theory, PFI allows trusts to determine how much an asset-based service — typically a hospital — should cost over its usable life and budget accordingly. All things being equal, this should reduce cost and increase value for money for the trust. It also means that a trust has the sort of access to capital based on its needs rather than on the constraints set by the Treasury. The trust will have a competition between various private sector suppliers but will only choose a winner if it offers better value for money than the cost when compared with the public sector cost for the same service.

When PFI was first introduced progress was slow. There were many reasons, including too many projects put forward, with little sense of priorities, and many of these projects were poorly defined and unaffordable. There was also a concern in the financial markets that PFI projects may be *ultra vires*. This was because the powers of the NHS trusts would not allow them to enter into these long, complex and large deals.

Shortly after coming into power, Labour made two decisions that have significantly improved the situation. First, the NHS (Private Finance Act 1997) solved the *vires* problem. Secondly, the Health Minister identified 14 projects which would be given priority. These actions have led to deals to build 13 new hospitals with a capital value of some £1.7 billion being signed since May 1997. Many of these have successfully started construction.

Despite the NHS securing 13 new hospitals, which it otherwise could not have afforded, PFI is still attracting flak. Many people question how PFI can deliver value for money when government borrowing is cheaper than privately borrowed capital. The answer is that PFI works because it is not simply the private sector financing exactly what the public sector has historically done. The fundamental issue is that the public sector contracts with the private sector to design, build and operate the hospital as well as finance it. In essence this means that the NHS can pass on the problem of building and owning assets — and providing related non-clinical services — to the private sector and concentrate on the issue of providing patient care.

As the market has developed, new players have been tempted in and more innovative financing techniques attempted — including long-term, fixed-rate and index-linked bonds in the debt markets as well as private equity. These developments have increased competition and brought down the costs of PFI to the trusts.

Despite this progress, PFI still has room for improvement. Major obstacles to overcome include the fact that each contract is different and takes an inordinate length of time and hence cost to negotiate, which emphasises the adversarial nature of the negotiation which puts the public sector in the role of a "policeman" rather than that of a partner. The emphasis on cost of capital has led to very high gearing on many projects — often in excess of 90 per cent of the contract value — which reduces flexibility. To date, traditional project finance models have been chosen to finance most PFI hospitals. This type of finance has a high front-end cost which is not related to the amount of money raised and therefore makes the current PFI model difficult to apply to the small projects, such as community healthcare.

PRESCRIPTIONS FOR THE NHS

If PFI is to fulfil its potential and particularly if it is to be the catalyst to a long-term dynamic partnership between the public and private sectors, it must change from its current model.

First, there must be more standardisation of contracts. This has been agreed by most parties but has yet to be implemented. Once agreed these standards must be monitored and enforced. However, standardisation should not be seen as a one-way bet as there is a risk that standardisation may lead to a surpression of innovation. PFI is still new and the acceptance and pricing of risk by the private sector is likely to change over time. If standardisation prohibits this change, the pricing of risk could be set in a time warp, which is likely to lead to diminishing value for money for the public sector.

Secondly, PFI must become more flexible. It is extremely unlikely that the needs of a trust will remain constant throughout the contract period (generally 30 years). The management of this change must be accommodated within the same value-for-money criteria as the original contract, which given the current inflexible nature of the contracts will be difficult.

It is here where the concept of partnership between the public and private sector is most beneficial.

Thirdly, smaller projects should not necessarily be financed as stand-alone project finance structures. They need to be financed from diversified balance sheets of significant size so they can be financed more as an incremental investment rather than a start-up investment.

Finally, more risk should be transferred to the private sector to ensure that the public sector does not have to consolidate the expenditure onto PSBR in the year in which the contract is signed.

How can all this be achieved? The variability in contract terms can best be overcome by centralising procurement within the NHS. This will ensure best practice is exercised across all deals and that the benefit of valuable resources is maximised and recycled in a positive way. This has been achieved by the Highways Agency and the Prison Service.

If PFI is to become more flexible it must accommodate lower levels of financial gearing. The providers of the equity must be willing to accept greater uncertainty and must be willing to actively manage the risk that will be passed to them. The management of these risks should be seen to be in partnership with the public sector. The most straightforward, yet radical, way for this to be achieved is for the public sector to hold an equity stake in the PFI companies. This stake should be seen as a commercial investment and not as a monitoring and prohibiting shareholding. This would further enhance the benefit received by the public sector. Joint shareholding should encourage the PFI company to develop objectives acceptable to both public and private sectors. In order to overcome some of the conflicts of interest that are created by this structure, the public sector equity should be held centrally and managed by the same entity which is responsible for procurement as discussed above. This would also encourage the evaluation of PFI investments on a portfolio basis within the public sector.

The public investment should be managed against clear, transparent and quantifiable objectives. A government minority stake would be necessary to ensure the correct accounting treatment. Government would get value for its investment because as projects mature it would have the opportunity to recycle its capital as incremental value was created, hence the public sector would get more for its money.

These changes may require radical changes in thinking, but now is the time for radical action. The first wave of PFI projects has shown the doubters that the private and public sector can work together to construct, finance and manage public sector services. It has been demonstrated that the current model works. We now need to show that this model can be enhanced and that genuine partnership can be achieved to manage public services in a rapidly changing environment. The successes of the recent past should be seen as a start rather than a solution.

Chris Elliott is a managing director of Barclays Capital and runs the Barclays UK Infrastructure Fund. He is a former member of the PFI Panel.

☐ TOMORROW: can we afford new blockbuster drugs such as Viagra? Sir Richard Sykes, chairman of Glaxo Wellcome, argues that we have to take a long, hard look at what is given for free on the NHS.

Steel industry will have to bite the bullet

The stock price of Rio Tinto, the world's largest mining group, took a tumble yesterday, losing 4 per cent in a few hours. Such frights are commonplace at Rio, but this time the reason for the fall was not a collapse in copper or coal prices but the state of the Japanese steel industry.

Rio is a big producer of iron ore, a core ingredient of steel, and yesterday Hamersley Iron, Rio's Australian producing subsidiary, announced price cuts of 10 to 11 per cent in its annual bargaining round with the big Japanese steel producers. Hamersley said: "Japanese crude steel production is at its lowest level in 27 years and shows signs of further deterioration."

Faced with weak domestic markets, Japanese mills are cutting back production. Nippon Steel will make a loss, and our own British Steel will lose some £200 million this year and at least half that amount next year. A worldwide glut is causing pain everywhere, raising the threat of trade disputes and increasing trade tensions between the US and Europe.

Only last Friday, the US commerce department set duties on Japanese and Brazilian steel producers in response to an intense lobby from US steel producers. American producers complain that foreign steel makers are "dumping" hot-rolled coil (a commodity steel product) at uneconomic prices, creating unfair competition and threatening US jobs.

Similar cries have been made in Europe over the product, which suffered a 35 per cent price collapse over three months as imports flooded into euroland. In November, a European steel lobby group, Eurofer, launched an anti-dumping complaint with the European Commission against Taiwan, India, Iran, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and South Africa.

The immediate cause is the collapse in consumption in South-East Asia. The region consumed some 75 million tonnes of imported steel at its peak, about 10 per cent of world production, but at the same time was itself producing 300 million tonnes to satisfy a construction boom. Plummeting demand left Asian producers and suppliers to the region floundering, so they targeted stable markets in Europe and the US, flooding them with cheap product.

Politicians in Brussels and Washington want us to believe this is a war between good, honest traders and nasty dumpers, but such a simplistic view obscures real structural problems. The world produces some 750 million tonnes but needs just 680 million. The collapse of the Russian and Ukrainian economies left huge, inefficient steel industries with no domestic market.

Erecting barriers to cheap imports hurts consumers, but Colin Campbell, steel analyst at ABN Amro, also sees dangers to the steel industry in protectionism. "There are undoubtedly people out there selling below the cash cost of production, but protectionist measures could be bad news for the industry. It reduces the speed of change."

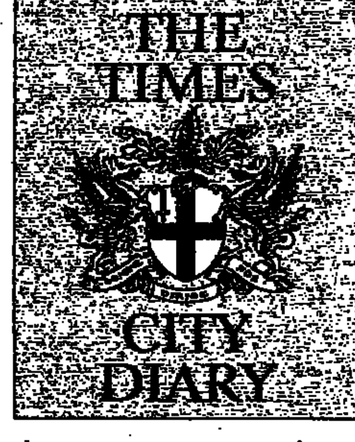
Europe's private sector steel industry is less than ten years old and has only just begun a slow process of consolidating as it moves out of the state's embrace. In 1997 Thyssen and Krupp joined forces, followed later by Usinor of France taking over Belgium's Cockerill Sambre, and Arbed acquiring a 35 per cent stake last year in Aceralia of Spain.

Alan Coats of Merrill Lynch reckons that the industry needs to move towards a small number of international champions capable of supplying high-quality steel products to manufacturers around the world. Such a move could be led by the automotive industry, and he points out the move by Usinor into the Brazilian steel industry, encouraged by car manufacturers.

But the process will be slow and painful and subject to political pressures. Usinor was forced to give job guarantees to Belgium in its takeover of Cockerill. British Steel is trying for the second time to acquire Salzgitter, the German mill currently in talks with Luxembourg's Arbed. Given Britain's reputation for closing down mills at home, it is unlikely that the government of Lower Saxony, which owns a quarter of Salzgitter, would welcome such a move.

But closures are what the industry needs if Asian demand does not pick up rapidly. As Mr Campbell points out: "What troubles the Americans is not so much the low-quality Russian exports but high-quality and low-cost steel from Korea and Japan."

CARL MORTISHED



Excess fare

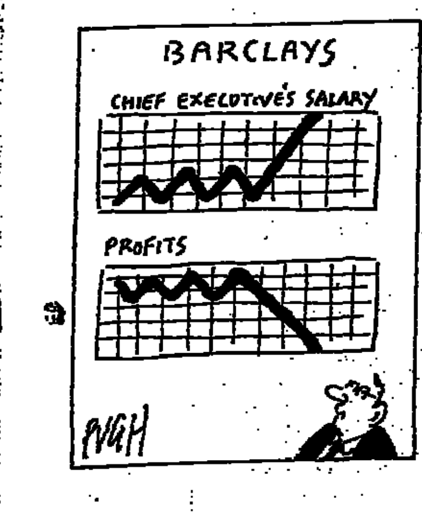
I DON'T know how this will play with the electricians, but I hear that Bechtel, the American engineer parachuted in to complete the Jubilee Line extension to Canary Wharf and beyond, is on a success fee of £10 million if the trains are running by the millennium.

The total cost of the work is about £13 million, but London Underground has agreed that the Americans will turn a profit only if the trains run to a previously agreed and fairly tough schedule.

In return, Bechtel insisted on a bonus of £10 million, on the ground that it probably is the only one who could guarantee that the line opens on time.

For the bonus to be paid, 28 trains an hour, the same capacity as on the existing parts of the Jubilee Line, must run for paying passengers from Stratford to North Greenwich, south of the Thames, by April 30. The really important Waterloo link must open by the end of August, and the rest, to Green Park, within a further two months.

I am told the Americans are on schedule to earn their money. Well, you would be, wouldn't you?



STAYING on a millenarian theme, I had always assumed that any millennium bug problems would follow the dawning of the new century around the world. So the first effects would be felt in Australia and then Tokyo, then sweeping through the rest of Asia via Europe to London.

This would give us some warning. But I am told otherwise. It all depends where your computer was made, and so when, according to local time, the clock was put in. So if your machine was made in the Far East, it could fail 12 hours or more before the arrival of the millennium in London or New York. I have no idea if the above is true, but it seems to make sense.

Revenge bid?

SOMEONE with a long memory observes the takeover by Prebon Yamane of fellow moneybroker M W Marshall with a jaundiced eye and points out that almost two decades ago the boot was on the other foot.

There was great outrage in the early 1980s when Marshall, then owned by Mercantile House, bought Charles Fulton and set about sacking large chunks of the workforce. Banks vowed to withdraw their business, and the indignation in the money markets lasted, ooh, at least a week.

Bits of Fulton were sold off and, in the fullness of time, became Fulton Prebon, which begat Prebon Yamane, and so on. So will old scores be now settled? Prebon's Patrick Keenan assures me: "If that was a model of how not to achieve a merger, this one is going to be quite different."

FORGET leaves on the line or the wrong sort of snow, this has to be the best excuse yet, from delay-plagued Connex South Central. One of its trains was held up on Monday evening. "We apologise for the five-minute delay at Coulsdon South," passengers were told. "This was due to the presence on the train of four drug dealers."

Glass apart

AS BARCLAYS announces its results for last year — and wasn't Bob Diamond of Barclays Capital in a bad mood yesterday? — an odd thought strikes me. There have been two new non-executives on the board of Pilkington, the glassmaker, over the past year. They are both former Barclays directors.

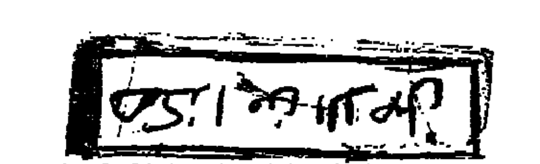
One is Oliver Stocken, who was finance director, the other Bill Harrison, who ran BZW. Both left after falling out with Martin Taylor, the former Barclays chief executive. He is, of course, now gone, his departure having been assisted by a Barclays non-executive, Sir Nigel Rudd. Sir Nigel is chairman of Pilkington. It's probably only a coincidence.

MARTIN WALLER

city.diary@the-times.co.uk



Rudd: familiar faces on board



Low & Bonar sees shares slide as prospects worsen

By Paul Armstrong

INVESTORS pounded shares of Low & Bonar again yesterday after the packaging group painted a bearish outlook based on lower sales and tighter margins.

Fears that Low's already tough market conditions might deteriorate further saw the share price marked down by nearly 10 per cent to 165p.

The stock has plunged from a high of 420p in June, amid worries about the company's sensitivity to the international economic climate and particularly the Asian crisis.

Low yesterday reported that it had made a pre-tax profit of £46.2 million in the year to November 30, down from £47.5 million the previous year and below analysts' expectations.

The result was helped into a pre-tax deficit of £3.4 million after exceptional losses of £40.1 million, most of which stemmed from a book-keeping charge associated with the purchase of its cereal packaging business in 1993.

However, Low said that it would maintain its final dividend at 11.35p, making 15.85p for the year, compared with 15.6p in the previous year.

Jim Heilig, chief executive, said that Low was bracing itself for an increasingly difficult environment where cost control would be critical.

"The economic climate around the world has caused some of our customers' businesses to be flat or even to decline," Mr Heilig said.

He said that Low's plastics division had been hit by the downturn in demand for capital machinery, such as tractors and diggers, for which it supplied many parts.

"Our order books declined in the last couple of months of 1998 and in January this year," Mr Heilig said.

"There is also some pretty severe price competition in the packaging business, particularly on the Continent."

He said that the folding cartons business was burdened by significant excess capacity and he feared that the 2 per cent rise recorded in profit margins last year across the group would be eliminated.

Low also foreshadowed annual savings of £6 million, half of which would become available this year, from a restructuring of its enlarged cartons business.

Costs associated with the reorganisation, which stems from last year's £67.5 million purchase of the Waddington Cartons business, came to £9.5 million and were charged to the 1998 result.

Mr Heilig said that he was comfortable with Low's interest cover of five to six times, saying that it gave the company scope to make another acquisition.

Tempus, page 26

BEN GURR



Boxed in: Jim Heilig saw Low & Bonar's pre-tax profits fall

IT floats will net millions for directors

By Chris Ayres

TWO young IT industry executives yesterday looked set to become multimillionaires as their companies, Morse Holdings and Axon Group, decided to go public.

Duncan McIntyre, chief executive of Morse, will see his shares in the company valued at more than £25 million, while Mark Hunter, chief executive of Axon, will see his shares valued at about £30 million. The companies are likely to be valued at £300 million and £100 million respectively.

Mr McIntyre, a 39-year-old former accountant, led a £46 million management buyout of Morse in 1995, with 3i, the venture capitalist group, taking a 55 per cent stake in the business. Other shareholders in Morse include PPM Ventures and staff.

Morse also announced yesterday that it had appointed Richard Lapthorne, vice-chairman of British Aerospace, as a non-executive director. Morse, which helps small and medium-sized companies to install computer hardware and software systems, is expected to raise about 70 million of new cash at its flotation, scheduled to take place before the summer.

This leaves the company currently valued at about £230 million, with Mr McIntyre holding an 11 per cent stake.

Mr McIntyre said yesterday: "What we aim to do is carry on up the value chain, not get sucked down to the lower end of the market. We need to become a proper pan-European company." He added that the £70 million raised on flotation would be used to expand overseas, pay off debts, and develop niche markets.

Axon specialises in the implementation and continuing support and maintenance of "enterprise resource planning" software systems. It expects to raise about £14 million at its flotation. Mr Hunter, 36, said the money would be spent mainly on research and development.

Troubled times for Zochonis

By Robert Lea

PATERSON ZOCHONIS, purveyors of the Imperial Leather brand of toiletries, reported a catalogue of woes yesterday from worsening credit problems in Russia to consumer depression in Nigeria.

Despite the successful launch of a new shower product, Foamburst, in the UK, the shares fell another 5p to 337½p.

Reporting interim pre-tax profits down by 23 per cent in the six months to November 30 at £11.3 million, the company gave warning that numbers for the full year will not be helped by a £6.3 million charge in the second half, covering its problems in China.

Graham Calder, finance director, said operations in China had been badly hit by competition. In other businesses, Far East profits are beginning to improve after currency devaluations, although "serious" difficulties remain in Eastern Europe. The interim dividend remains at 5.85p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Oriel unveils £7.5m London hotel plan

ORIEL LEISURE, the budget hotel group backed by English & Overseas Properties and Bankers Trust, is to develop a £7.5 million Holiday Inn Express in Wandsworth, South London. The 148-room hotel, part of the Riverside West residential, leisure and office development near Wandsworth Bridge, will charge about £70 a room when it opens its doors in autumn 2000. The hotel is one of at least 20 that Oriel is planning to develop over the next three years under an agreement with Bass Hotels & Resorts, owner of the Holiday Inn brand. Its first Express opened in Peterborough last November.

Michael Brooker, chief executive of Oriel, said: "In the next few months we're going to announce another seven projects in various parts of the country at a total cost of around £32 million." He said the plan was to expand to a size where Oriel's backers could seek an exit, through a flotation or a trade sale. Oriel moved into budget hotel development three years ago after failing in an attempt to buy Forte's White Hart Hotels chain.

News Ltd phone stake

NEWS LTD, the Australian arm of The News Corporation, has joined forces with Publishing and Broadcasting to invest A$709 million (about £273 million) in One.Tel, the emerging mobile phone operator. Each will take a 20 per cent stake in One.Tel through a mixture of shares and options, to strengthen the company's expansion into overseas markets. One.Tel shares rose almost 8 per cent to A$12.63. One.Tel's main competitors in Australia are Telstra, Optus and Vodafone. News Corp is parent company of *The Times*.

Rolls in £150m deal

ROLLS-ROYCE, the aero-engines manufacturer, has signed a contract worth £150 million with British Aerospace for the engines and through-life support of Rolls-Royce Turbomeca Adour Mk 871 engines that will power Australia's Hawk fighter aircraft. The contract covers the 33 aircraft being acquired by the Royal Australian Air Force. Rolls-Royce will manufacture the first batch of Adour engines at its Bristol facility. The first engine is due to be delivered next month to British Aerospace for installation into the first Australian Hawk.

Gearhouse accelerates

GROWTH in events around the world hiring audio-visual and other conference and exhibition equipment helped Gearhouse Group to a 60 per cent rise in profits in the first half of the year, with the company's chairman, Brian North, forecasting considerable scope for growth. Pre-tax profits for the six months to December 31 came in at £2.13 milion on turnover up 25 per cent at £37.6 million. Earnings per share were 8.8p (5.4p) and the interim dividend is up to 2.8p from 2.6p.

St Modwen on the up

ST MODWEN PROPERTIES, the property development and investment company based in Birmingham, reported a 19 per cent rise in net assets to 81.8p a share for the year to November 30. Pre-tax profits rose 15 per cent to £15.6 million, with earnings up 12 per cent to 9.2p a share. The total dividend rises 10 per cent to 3.3p a share, with a final 2.3p. The investment property portfolio, including the share of properties in joint ventures, was valued at £166.1 million on November 30, producing a surplus over valuation of £8.5 million.

Picture bright at Quarto

QUARTO GROUP, the publisher of illustrated books, lifted 1998 pre-tax profits to £3.7 million from £2.9 million. Group sales fell 3 per cent to £79.2 million but were £80.5 million at constant currency rates. Earnings rose to 9.8p a share from 7p. The final dividend is held at 2.3p, making 4.5p for the year. The shares rose 7p to 64½p. Laurence Orbach, chairman, said the company expected to improve its competitive position this year, helped by the anticipated return to profitability within the art publishing business.

Macro 4 confident

SHARES in Macro 4 soared nearly 20 per cent after Ronnie Wilson, chief executive, said the company's pipeline of orders for its software supplies was building satisfactorily and that second-half results should continue to show improvement. Pre-tax profits in the six months to December 31 slipped 4 per cent to a little more than £5 million after £1.2 million extra "investment in people". Earnings per share were 16.6p (17.6p) and the interim dividend is unchanged at 10.2p.

Buoyant Compel

THE outlook is bright for providers of computer services to blue chip companies, according to Neville Davis, chairman and chief executive of Compel, which provides server and IT network support for a range of large organisations. The company's shares climbed 16p to 480p yesterday after the company reported pre-tax profits up 36 per cent to nearly £5 million in the six months to December 31. Earnings per share came in at 11.6p (9p) and the interim dividend rises to 2.4p (2.1p).

Blue chips squeezed higher

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

BANKS

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

BUILDING MATERIALS

CHEMICALS

CONSTRUCTION

DISTRIBUTORS

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS

ELECTRICITY

ELECTRONIC & ELECT

ENGINEERING

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

FOOD MANUFACTURERS

HEALTHCARE

HOUSEHOLD GDS & TEXT

INSURANCE

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

LEISURE & HOTELS

MEDIA

MINING

OIL & GAS

OTHER FINANCIAL

PHARMACEUTICALS

PRINTING & PAPER

PROPERTY

RETAILERS, FOOD

RETAILERS, GENERAL

SUPPORT SERVICES

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

TRANSPORT

WATER

ALTERNATIVE INV MARKET

BRITISH FUNDS

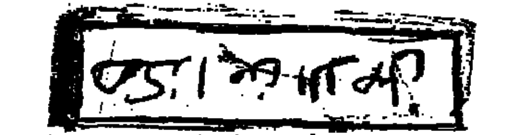
SHORTS (under 5 years)

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

LONGS (over 15 years)

UNDATED

INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of: 5% 3%



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	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Protected Funds				
UK Safeguard	144.67	154.17	- 0.96	
-do- NAV to Jan 19	140.39	140.39		
UK Equity Safeguard	115.69	122.74	- 0.09	2.02
-do- NAV to Mar 19	110.98	110.98	...	...
UC Eq Safeguard	98.78	102.92	- 0.74	
Cash	952.09	956.85		6.25
UK Growth Funds				
UK Equity Gen	437.87	465.82	-11.61	1.80
UK Small Cos	88.38	95.05	+ 0.14	0.50
FTSE 250 Index	104.73	112.01	+ 0.28	1.89
Guard UK Index	#24.458	#25.817	+ 1.18	5.75
Income Funds				
Corp Bd	88.18	91.14	- 0.19	6.66
Monthly Inc	44.30	47.38	- 0.13	7.98
International Funds				
American Gen	366.12	387.04	+ 0.41	0.17
American Strat	174.01	185.57	+ 0.28	
JG US Index	#29.738	#30.803	- 0.10	4.60
European Gen	438.67	464.00	- 5.74	
European Strat	213.59	228.04	+ 0.17	
Japan Gen	104.57	110.66	- 2.04	
Asia Pacific	61.17	65.30	- 0.28	1.09
Pacific Strat	84.93	90.83	+ 0.18	
Greater China	141.71	151.58	+ 0.38	
Latin America	56.77	60.71	- 0.11	
Int Growth	196.25	209.56	+ 0.80	0.11
Balanced Exempt	182.71	189.33		2.18
Global Strategy	47.36	50.65	- 0.06	...

AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS
01203 553 231

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
AXA Equity & Law Unit Trst				
Balanced Acc	83.73	89.07	+ 0.79	1.71
Balanced Inc	75.22	80.02	- 0.71	1.71
Bnt Exceed	132.80	141.30	+ 1.20	2.25
Bnt Fndmtl Acc	171.10	182.00	+ 2.00	3.91
Bnt Fndmtl Inc	106.10	112.90	+ 1.30	3.91
Europe	562.80	598.70	- 0.40	0.30
General Acc	980.60	1042.00	+16.00	2.44

CANADA LIFE MGMT (UK) LTD
01707 622 180

	Sell	Buy	+/-	Yld %
Can Gen Dist	319.30	338.40†	+ 3.80	0.99
-do- Income Dist	176.50	187.10	+ 2.40	2.64
-do- Accum	607.80	644.20	+ 8.00	2.64
Gilt & Fxd Int	47.97	50.40†	+ 0.14	3.90
Growth Units	386.40	412.10	+ 5.80	1.14
Bond	204.20	215.20	- 5.50	4.30
Intl Growth	270.00	288.80	- 1.40	0.11
North American	414.50	439.90	- 0.60	
Far East	168.80	178.40	- 1.00	0.97
UK Smaller Cos	274.60	293.70	- 1.30	1.15
European	138.90	147.60	- 0.80	0.14
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Income & Growth #	592.70	630.60†	- 9.00	4.37
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Japan & Gen	50.96	53.88	- 1.22	..
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UK Equity & Bd	73.07	77.41	..	5.31
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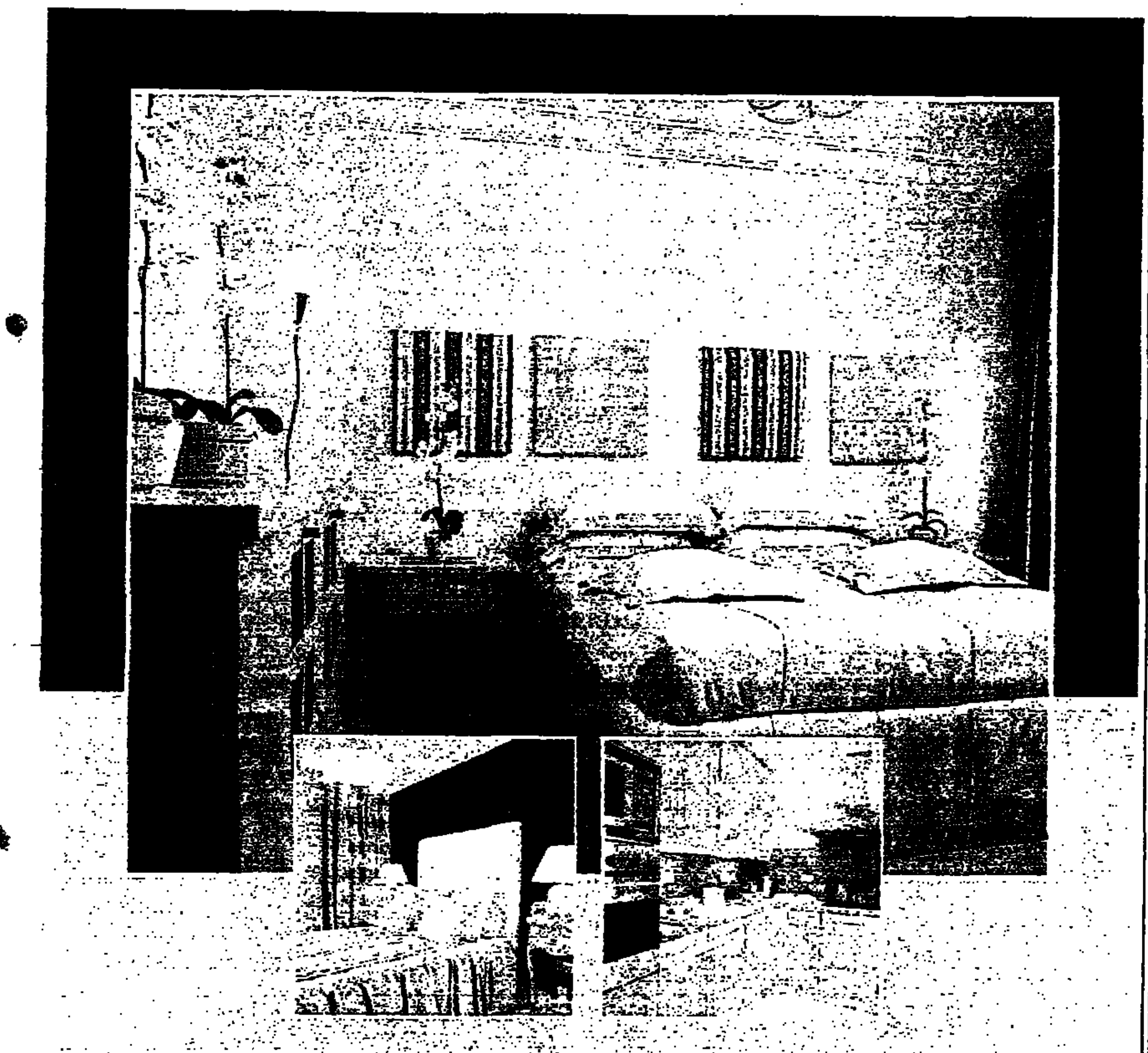
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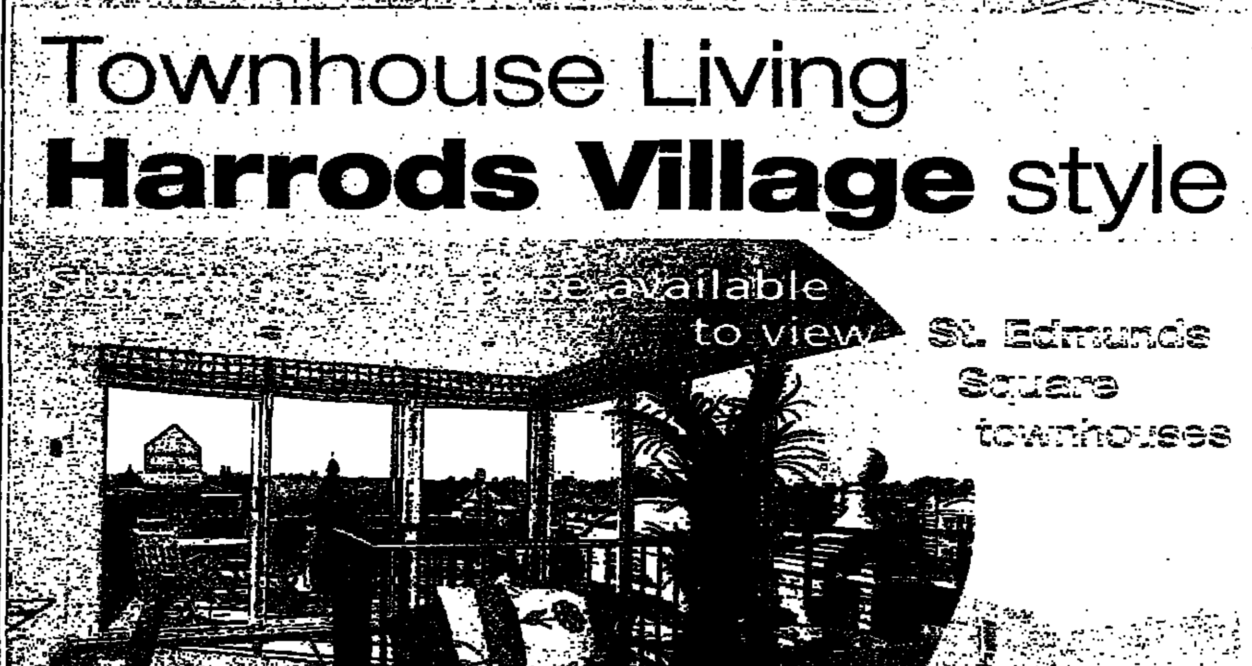
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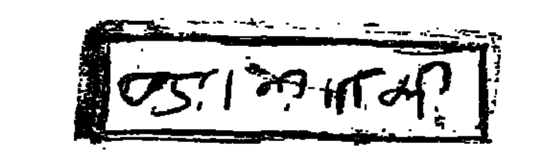
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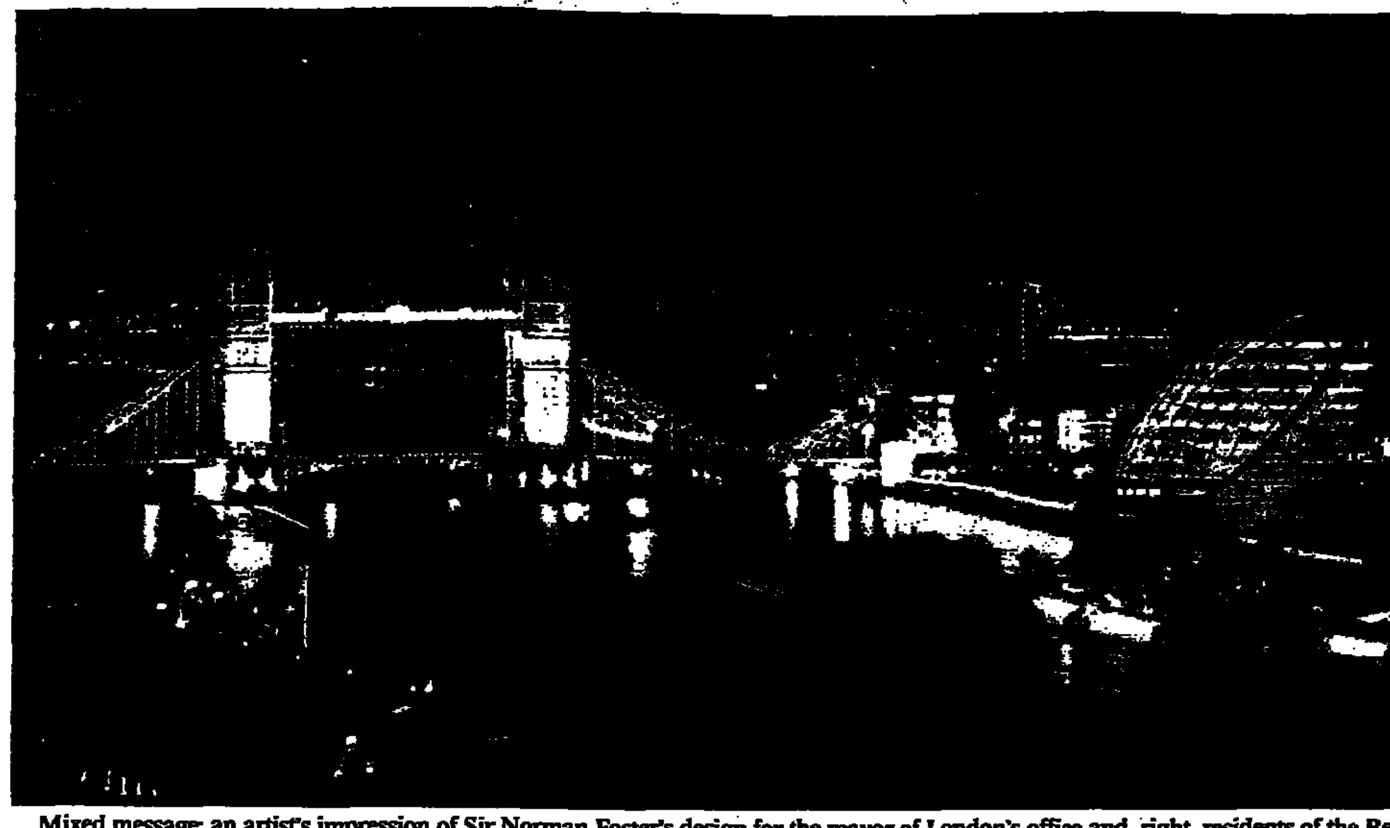
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‘Whose London is it anyway?’



SIMON BROOKE-WEBB



Mixed message: an artist's impression of Sir Norman Foster's design for the mayor of London's office and, right, residents of the Bermondsey council flats which could be demolished because of increasing land values if the offices go ahead

London's new mayor will almost certainly have a splendid office near Tower Bridge, but local residents are worried. **Laura Blair** reports

It is the biggest development site in town: 13 acres of mud overlooking the Tower of London. Its value when complete is estimated at £1 billion. And it is also the front-runner for the plum of plums: the office of the new mayor of London, a landmark waterfront building which has been variously described as a glass egg, a soap-dish or a fencing mask.

This building will be the centrepiece of a huge complex of offices, shops, a 180-bedroom hotel and public spaces, drawn to a masterplan by Sir Norman Foster and Partners. The developers, CIT/Markborough, have a planning application before Southwark Council. A decision is expected soon.

Not before time: over the past 20 years a long series of development proposals, including one that was a pastiche of the Palace of Westminster, and another of Venice, have all proved abortive.

This time the developers are playing it by the book. Firms have been hired to listen and learn about local needs, to understand how people use the area, to inform local communities and to create jobs: some 10,000 jobs are promised (though these, of course, will depend on a successful take-up of the office space). Help is promised with retraining local people.

The plans — which are on view to the public — proclaim the "mixed-use" development as "a new heart for Bermondsey". The most successful places round the world, the publicity says, "are those that put people first . . . places where people can meet, explore, talk, shop, eat, relax and play".

So how does the community feel? Most of them live south of the walled-off site, many in council-owned mansion blocks, and on the whole they are happy with the idea of offices nearby. There is some concern that the plans allow for a skating rink, health club and a walkway but no housing, cinema or children's facilities. For once, though, nobody is blaming the developers.

"We would have included social housing if it had been part of the council's planning brief," says Kevin McGovern, the managing director of CIT/Markborough. "And we are talking to a cinema operator."

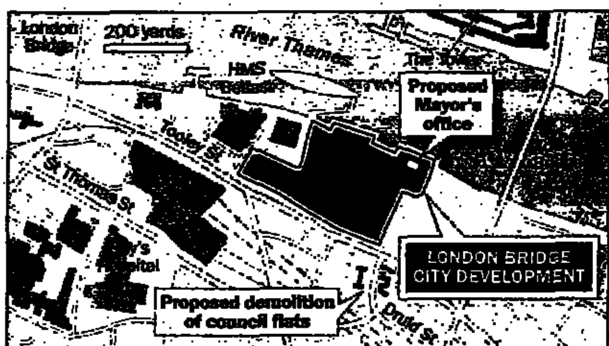
Childcare facilities? A library? These too "could happen as part of the planning gain settlement" (the money, or equivalent, given to the planning authority as part of the planning permission).

The exact contents of the site are open to negotiation. But behind the details lies a bigger picture, and a greater fear for the residents, some of whom have lived there since the Blitz.

If London Bridge City is built, property values in the immediate area will soar. The council, with its new self-financing housing programme, might well consider selling its estates locally and reinvesting the profits elsewhere in the borough.

Indeed, a proposal to demolish and sell three of the estates has already found its way on to the council's minutes. It is only one of various options, including refurbishment: but its very inclusion is surprising, since the estates appear to be in good condition.

During the war Bermondsey was a big food centre, known as the larder of London. The food trade has dwindled, warehouses have closed, docks have moved east and jobs are scarce. But there is a surprising community spirit left among the veterans and the young tenants and leaseholders in the flats. They resent the idea of the council acting as a property developer and are asking why demolition has even been considered.



"Demolition proposals should be informed by a stock condition survey, and residents should be involved in the decision-making process," says Andrew Ecclestone, the chairman of the residents' association representing the estates in question. "But we were denied access to the condition survey.

"What is proposed here flouts the Government's guidelines for sustainable regeneration — and this is a Labour council. Whose London is it anyway?" A question, perhaps, for the new mayor, who should be able to move into the new HQ next summer, enjoying a view of the Thames and the Tower at present seen only by the residents.

But the plot of land they occupy is now valued at £22.5 million, a tempting target for the council. After demolition the tenants fear that they could be rehoused piecemeal all over the borough and the (few) leaseholders served with compulsory purchase orders, ending up with very little.

Michael Irvine, the director of housing at Southwark Council, denies any hidden agenda. "These are just proposals," he says. "Nothing has been decided. We are carrying out a programme of housing improvement funded by the Government's Capital Receipts Initiative (CRI), and therefore have conducted several feasibility studies."

But the residents know that the £12 million CRI money is not enough to fund Southwark's housing programme. The council needs more.

A demolish-and-sell policy might make sense from a property point of view, admits Simon Hughes, the local (Liberal Democrat) MP. "But there was nothing about it in Labour's manifesto. It should not be a policy introduced by the back door. Disrupting stable communities is too high a price to pay. People should not be treated as pawns in the property market."

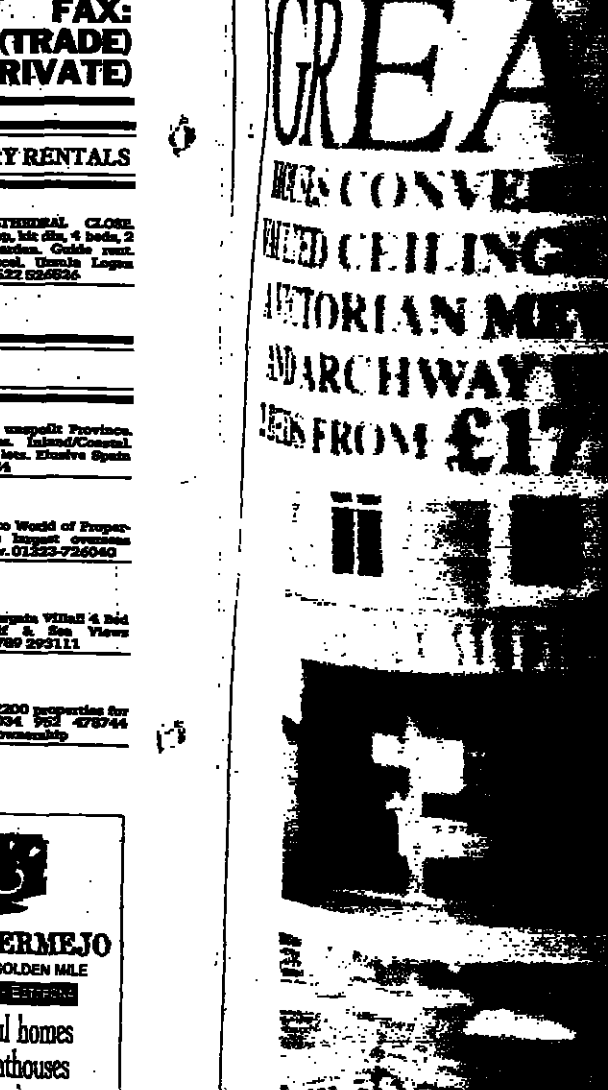
"Lil" Patrick is a sprightly 80-year-old who has always lived and worked in the area — "leather worker, air raid warden, nursery helper". She feels she is being kicked out of the way by today's society.

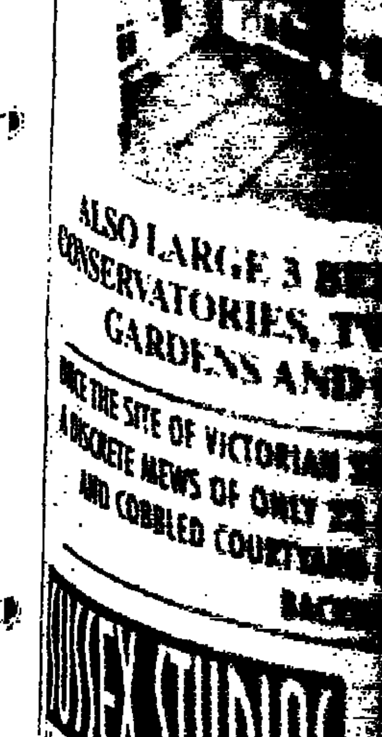
> There is a strong community spirit among the Blitz veterans and young council tenants

"We already have a Berlin Wall," she says. "Tooley Street."

In the wider context there is concern that government guidelines on affordable housing are not being met. George Nicholson, of the pressure group Communities and Homes in Central London, says: "There is a new national policy on enforceable levels of affordable housing to reduce social exclusion. Yet this is being flouted by many redevelopment plans."

Or, as Simon Hughes puts it: "What would the money equivalent of a council flat buy round here?"





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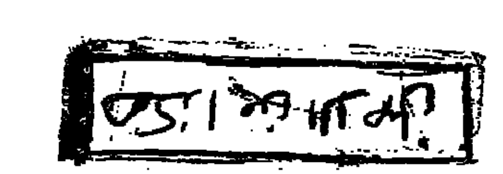
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DOCKLANDS



Court of Appeal — Law Report February 17 1999 — Court of Appeal

Freedom to increase excise rates

Regina v Commissioners of Customs and Excise and Others, Ex parte Shepherd Neame Ltd

Before Lord Justice Simon Brown, Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment February 12]

There was no obligation under Community law on the United Kingdom to abstain from making increases in the UK rate of excise duty.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment when dismissing an appeal Shepherd Neame Ltd from the refusal by the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice May and Mr Justice Moses) (*The Times* February 2, 1998; [1998] 1 CMLR 1139) of an application for judicial review of the rate of excise duty brought into effect by section 8 of the Finance (No 2) Act 1997.

Mr Michael Beloff, QC and Mr Clive Lewis for the applicants; Mr Ross Cranston, QC, Solicitor General, and Mr David Anderson for the Treasury, the Commissioners of Customs and Excise and the Attorney-General.

LORD JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said that the UK's rate of excise duty on beer was about seven times that of France. Not surprisingly, there was large-scale tax-induced cross-border shopping and increased smuggling.

Not surprisingly, too, Kent brewers, like the applicants, close to cross-Channel rail and ferry services, complained of damage to their trade. But the question before their Lordships was whether the applicants had a grievance in law.

The applicants' complaint was directed to the last two rate increases, of 3 per cent in the 1997 budget and 3.2 per cent in the 1998 budget.

Those increases, the applicants argued, inflation-linked though they were, took the United Kingdom further away from the greater harmonisation of excise duties necessary for the proper functioning of the EU internal market and were thus incompatible with EC law.

The 1997 increase, announced on July 2, 1997 and brought into effect on January 1, 1998 by section 8 of the 1997 Act, was the subject of the applicants' first challenge, which was dismissed by the Divisional Court.

Leave to appeal was refused successively by the Divisional Court and Lord Justice Buxton but was granted by Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, and Lord Justice Schiemann without argument, on the basis that the case raised issues of constitutional importance.

Leave to challenge the 1998 budget increase, announced on March 17, 1998 and brought into effect on January 1, 1999, was refused by Mr Justice Collins in the light of the Divisional Court's dismissal of the first application.

Their Lordships, however, granted leave at the outset of the present appeal hearing on the footing that that further challenge raised identical points to those arising on the appeal so that its fate should be linked to the outcome of the appeal.

Article 99 of the EC Treaty lay at the heart of the appeal and provided: "The Council shall, acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Parliament and the economic and social committee, adopt provisions for the harmonisation of legislation concerning ... excise duties ... to the extent that such harmonisation is necessary to ensure the establishment and the functioning of the internal market within the time limit laid down in article 7a."

In a 1985 paper on completing the internal market the European Commission concluded that fully harmonised excise rates for the main categories of excisable goods were desirable and proposed such a system.

The subsequent debate on those proposals, however, led both the Council of Europe and the Commission to recognise that complete rate harmonisation was not necessary for the creation of the internal market and in 1989 amended proposals were brought forward for a system of minimum rates, rate band and target rates.

However, the eventual rate system introduced in 1992 by the Council's adoption of three Directives under article 99 consisted solely of minimum rates together with harmonised structures and common rules for holding and movement of excisable goods.

Directive 92/84/EEC (the Rates Directive) (OJ 1992 L316/29) provided for minimum rates of excise duty and by article 8 provided:

"Every two years ... the Council, acting on the basis of a report ... from the Commission, shall examine the rates of duty laid down herein and, acting unanimously ... shall adopt the necessary measures..."

In a 1995 report the Commission said: "1.7 In deciding to adopt a system of minimum rates, the Council clearly felt that market forces should be the driving force behind rate approximation."

Article 5 of the EC Treaty was central to the applicants' case and provided: "Member states shall take all reasonable measures ... to ensure fulfilment of the obligations arising out of this Treaty or resulting from action taken by the institutions of the Community. They shall facilitate the achievement of the Community's tasks. They shall abstain from any measure which could jeopardise the attainment of the objectives of this Treaty."

Mr Beloff argued that the duties of the Council under article 99 were not exhaustive of the objective of harmonising excise duties, but, on the contrary, the duties of member states under article 5 also bore on the matter.

Implicit in his argument was the assertion that if the Council, and the Commission, were striving to reach agreement with a view to further harmonisation, then no member state could in the meantime take any measure that increased divergence.

The true position, however, as submitted by the Solicitor General, seemed to be that if there was compliance with whatever Directives were adopted under article 99, there could be no breach of article 5.

Member states enjoyed complete fiscal sovereignty, subject only to such restrictions as might have been unanimously agreed under article 99.

No harmonising measures had ever been agreed beyond the minimum rates of duty specified by the Rates Directive.

Subject only to those minimum rates, the power to determine excise duties belonged to each individual member state and was part of its core competence to levy taxation. That competence could not be depleted by mere inference.

Mr Beloff sought to invoke article 5, in effect, to place constraints on each member state's fiscal sovereignty despite the absence of any unanimous agreement to that effect. That was plainly impermissible. There was no warrant for it either in Community legislation or any of its jurisprudence.

His Lordship rejected, as had the Divisional Court, Mr Beloff's argument based on the trilogy of cases concerned with fish stock conservation in the context of the common fisheries policy: *Kramer* ([1976] ECR 1279), *France v United Kingdom* ([1979] ECR 2923) and *Commission v United Kingdom* ([1980] ECR 2403).

Indeed, his Lordship agreed with the Divisional Court's conclusion that, so far from providing an analogy, those cases demonstrated the difficulties faced by the applicants in the present different situation.

Lord Justice Auld and Lord Justice Ward agreed.

Solicitors: Travers Smith Braithwaite; Treasury Solicitor.

Mark must be distinctive

In re Procter and Gamble Ltd

Before Lord Justice Peter Gibson, Lord Justice Robert Walker and Lord Justice Tuckey

[Judgment January 29]

The provision in section 3(1)(b) of the Trade Marks Act 1994 requiring that registration must be refused for trade marks which were devoid of any distinctive character was directed to a visible sign, or combination of signs, which could by itself readily distinguish one trader's product from that of another competing trader.

The Court of Appeal so stated when dismissing an appeal by Procter and Gamble Ltd against the dismissal by Mr Justice Chadwick on July 25, 1997 of their appeal under section 76 of the 1994 Act. Procter and Gamble contended that the Comptroller-General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks, acting as registrar, was wrong to refuse, on hearings before his hearing officer, Ms Virginia Douglas, three applications for registration of trade marks on February 27, 1996.

Each application was to register a three-dimensional bottle as a mark in class 3: that is, polishing, scouring and abrasive preparations; detergents and soaps; bleaching preparations. The impact of the shape, label and colours of the bottles was to be assessed together.

The shape of all three bottles was the same and found to be typical of such containers with a horizontal corrugated effect below the shoulders of each. The labels either did not include any legible lettering or wording or had some ghosted wording with the illustration faintly depicted where it would appear.

Their object was said to be to secure protection against lookalikes. The colours used were bold primary colours found to be such as were invariably used on containers for household cleaning preparations.

Mr Christopher Morcom, QC and Mr James Graham for Procter and Gamble; Mr Daniel Alexander for the registrar.

LORD JUSTICE ROBERT WALKER said that it was common ground that the 1994 Act marked an important departure from the law on registration of trade marks going back to 1875.

Authorities decided by reference to earlier statutes might not be apposite. The 1994 Act was not a consolidating Act. It was passed to give effect to Council Directive 89/104 EEC (OJ 1989 L40/5). It had to be construed in a manner consistent with its Community origins and purposes.

Section 3 of the 1994 Act set out grounds on which registration must be refused. The present application had been refused under 3(1)(b) "trade marks which are devoid of any distinctive character".

There was no definition of "distinctive" in the 1994 Act where before under the 1905 and 1938 Acts it had been defined. The procedure under the 1994 Act was summarised in *Eurolamb Trade Mark* ([1997] RPC 279, 288). The registrar no longer had a discretion but had to make a judgment: yes or no.

The ghosting of the labels was at the heart of the appeal. Procter and Gamble wanted to go beyond the registration of a particular name or device and to achieve registration for what was often called "get-up". That was a convenient expression for the characteristic style of a product which may be produced by the use of colouring, typography, materials, finishing and other elements apart from the text itself which went into modern commercial design.

Like many leading manufacturers, Procter and Gamble did not welcome lookalikes and they would like to be able to curb them by registration under the 1994 Act rather than by the probably more arduous process of passing-off.

The proviso to section 3(1) of the 1994 Act was not in point as no evidence was adduced that the get-up shown in the three applications had acquired any special distinctiveness as a result of use in the market.

Whether or not the designs were devoid of any distinctive character must be decided by reference to the designs themselves, not by reference to any particular marketing experience: see *AD 2000 Trade Mark* ([1997] RPC 168, 174).

The essential issue was whether the hearing officer and the judge erred in construing and applying the words "devoid of any distinctive character".

Mr Morcom submitted that an application could not be refused unless it could be fairly said that the mark possessed no distinctive character whatsoever. Each of the three applications depicted a distinctive get-up.

It was erroneous to rely on what the hearing officer called "the classic test of distinctiveness" in Lord Parker's speech in *W and G Du Cros* ((1913) 30 RPC 660, 672).

His Lordship noted that it was important to see the words of Lord Parker in their historical context. In the 1905 Act there was a statutory definition of "distinctive" later reproduced in section 9 of the 1938 Act: "distinctive means adapted ... to distinguish goods" with which the trade mark's proprietor was connected in the course of trade from goods where there was no such connection.

"Distinctive" was further explained by a provision under which "adapted" could refer either to inherent adaptation or to adaptation in fact by reason of use of the trade mark: see *Smith, Kline and French Laboratories Ltd v Sterling-Winthrop Group* ([1976] RPC 511).

The dual system of registration contained in section 9 of the 1938 Act was swept away by the 1994 Act. Moreover section 3(1)(c) and (d) of the 1994 Act spelt out, although not necessarily with identical effect, requirements which were previously contained in the principle that "inherently capable of distinguishing" in the 1938 Act meant capable in law, not capable in fact: see *In re York Trailer* ([1982] 1 WLR 195, 198-201).

His Lordship would accept that Lord Parker's observations about distinctiveness must since the 1994 Act be treated with considerable caution, especially so far as they referred to what was capable in law of distinguishing one product from another.

It appeared to his Lordship, however, that the passage was referred to by the hearing officer and the judge for little more than its description of the context in which the meaning of "distinctive character" had to be determined: that is, of traders who were in competition with each other in the market place, and to whom Parliament wished to accord proper protection but not any exorbitant monopoly.

The judge had derived assistance from Mr Justice Jacob in *British Sugar plc v James Robertson and Sons Ltd* ([1996] RPC 281, 306) which his Lordship found helpful.

The present case was concerned, not with a mark which was said to have become distinctive through use, nor with a mark which was said to be disqualified on some comparatively technical ground such as its geographical indication.

It was concerned with the much simpler issue of whether the subject-matter of the applications was, in the non-technical sense which Mr Justice Jacob had in mind, inherently distinctive.

Marks which were unusual, or even absurd, arrested the eye and mind and were recognised for what they were. They were distinctive in that they could perform the essential function of a trade mark: see *Philips Electronics BV v Remington Consumer Products Ltd* (*The Times* February 2 1998; [1998] RPC 283, 299-303).

Section 3(1)(b) had to be directed to a visible sign or combination of signs which could by itself readily distinguish one trader's product, in the present case an ordinary, inexpensive household product, from that of another competing trader.

Product A and product B might be different in their outward appearance and packaging, but if the differences became apparent only on close examination and comparison, neither could be said to be distinctive, unless, of course, one constituted an unlawful infringement of some existing trade mark. An objection on those grounds would be a practical and businesslike objection.

There was nothing inherently distinctive about the three bottles which were the subject matter of the applications. Taking together the shape, ghosted label and colours and treating them as a combination, his Lordship found that they were not distinctive but typical of the get-up of products used for cleaning different kitchen and bathroom surfaces; typical in every respect except that there was no identification by any distinctive product name or device. The appeal would be dismissed.

Lord Justice Peter Gibson and Lord Justice Tuckey agreed.

Solicitors: Mr Robert M. Downey, Gosforth; Treasury Solicitor.

Seeking reason for verdict from jury

Regina v Jones (Douglas)

Before Lord Justice Rose, Mr Justice Ognall and Mr Justice Burton

[Judgment February 8]

Where there was more than one possible basis for a verdict of guilty of manslaughter, in many cases it might be convenient and desirable for a judge to invite a jury to indicate the basis on which they returned that verdict. The purpose of such an inquiry was to help the judge in relation to sentence

The Court of Appeal, Criminal Division, so stated when dismissing the appeal of Douglas Leary Constantine Jones against his conviction by a majority of 10 to 2, following a retrial, on October 20, 1997 at the Central Criminal Court before Sir Lawrence Verney, QC, then Recorder of London, and a jury, of manslaughter, on which he was sentenced to eight years imprisonment. He had been charged with murder.

Miss Clare Montgomery, QC, assigned by the Registrar of Criminal Appeals, for the appellant; Mr E. Julian Bevan, QC, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE ROSE, giving the judgment of the court, said that there was no obligation on a judge to make inquiries as to the basis of the verdict but, in the exercise of his discretion, when summing up he might hand to the jury written questions which might identify the different possible verdicts, not only as between murder and manslaughter, but also as to the reasons for the verdict of manslaughter, if such a verdict was to be returned.

Alternatively, after a manslaughter verdict was returned a judge might ask the jury what was the basis of that verdict, provided that he had warned the jury when summing up of his intention to ask the question. There was, however, no obligation on a jury to answer.

The purpose of the inquiry, if the judge saw fit to make it, was to help the judge when sentencing. The response of a jury would explain why a verdict of not guilty of murder had been returned. It would not provide any necessary indication as a matter of law of the route by which the manslaughter verdict was reached.

Provided a jury were agreed that a defendant was guilty of manslaughter in the sense that they were sure that he perpetrated an unlawful act which caused the death of the deceased, there was no need for unanimity as to the basis for that verdict.

The considerations adverted to in *R v Brown (Kevin)* ((1984) 79 Cr App R 115, 119) as to the need for a jury to be unanimous as to the ingredients of the offence and the facts substantiating those ingredients, did not have any application to the circumstances where a verdict of manslaughter was returned as an alternative to murder.

There was no obligation on the judge to give any further directions than he had done in this case, and there was no ground for regarding the appellant's conviction of manslaughter as being in any way unsafe.

Solicitors: Crown Prosecution Service, Mitcham.

Prison care in pregnancy

Brooks v Home Office

Before Mr Justice Garland

[Judgment February 3]

A pregnant woman detained in prison was entitled to expect the same careful standard of obstetric medical care and observation as if she were at liberty.

Mr Justice Garland so held in the Queen's Bench Division when dismissing a claim by Margaret Brooks against the Home Office for damages for the loss of her baby while she was detained at Holloway Prison and her resulting psychiatric injury.

Mr Charles Lewis for the plaintiff; Mr Stephen Irwin, QC, for the defendant.

MR JUSTICE GARLAND said that the plaintiff was pregnant with twins and her pregnancy was classified as high risk, requiring regular monitoring by ultrasound scans and clinical examination. She was remanded in custody at Holloway where the prison medical service had been responsible for her care.

A scan at the prison revealed that twin 1 was 20 per cent smaller than twin 2 and had not grown sufficiently within the previous two weeks.

His Lordship said that *Knight v Home Office* ([1990] 3 All ER 237) was not authority for the proposition advanced by the respondent that the plaintiff, as a pregnant woman, was not entitled to expect the same careful standard of obstetric care and observation as if she was at liberty.

The standard of care given to the plaintiff fell below that expected in that the doctor in charge of the plaintiff who had insufficient obstetrics expertise, failed to seek immediate specialist obstetric advice but instead permitted a five day delay before the plaintiff received specialist attention.

Such specialist advice would not necessarily have recommended immediate admission to hospital, but that a delay of two days was permissible. However, as the baby had died inside that two-day period the loss could not have been caused by the breach of duty.

Solicitors: Phillips & Co, Salisbury; Treasury Solicitor.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE PURSUANT TO THE COMPANIES ACT 1985 SECTION 175 PURCHASE OF SHARES FROM CAPITAL

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT:

1 By a special resolution of the shareholders of the companies listed below approved on 12th February 1999 the payment out of capital as listed below for the purposes of the Company acquiring ordinary shares as listed below of 90p each.

2 The full list of members whose shares are being repurchased is available for inspection at the registered office of the Company situated at The Old Mill, Park Road, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 5BS

3 The amount of permissible capital payment as defined by Sections 170, 171 and 172 of the Companies Act 1985 was as listed below

4 The statutory declaration of the directors and the auditors' report required by section 173 of the said Act are available for inspection at the registered office of the Company situated at The Old Mill, Park Road, Shepton Mallet, Somerset BA4 5BS.

5 Any creditor of the Company may at any time within the period of five weeks immediately following 12th February 1998 (being the date of the above-mentioned special resolution) apply to the High Court under Section 176 of the said Act for an order prohibiting the payment.

Company Name	Company Number	Shares Acquired	Permissible Capital Payment
Studyhome (No.177) Ltd	2803608	89,900	£85,340
Studyhome (No.179) Ltd	2803638	89,900	£85,306
Studyhome (No.181) Ltd	2803761	99,900	£94,828
Studyhome (No.183) Ltd	2803763	94,900	£90,074
Studyhome (No.187) Ltd	2861231	99,900	£94,815
Studyhome (No.190) Ltd	2861239	84,900	£80,564
Studyhome (No.192) Ltd	2861273	99,900	£94,819



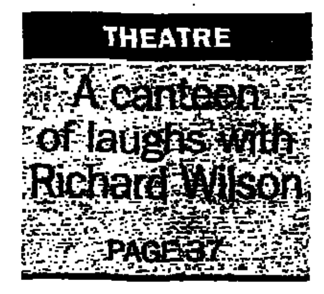


VISUAL ART
Pablo Picasso through his own camera
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THE TIMES

ARTS

THEATRE
A canteen of laughs with Richard Wilson
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Fishing vainly for English oddities

OPERA: In Cardiff, Peter Stein's new WNO staging of *Peter Grimes* misses the target, says **Rodney Milnes**

If *Peter Grimes* is one of the most English of all operas — even among the output of Britten, that most English of composers — then what outsiders bring to bear on it has to be interesting. Welsh National Opera's new production is conducted by its Italian musical director, Carlo Rizzi, and produced by its most eminent guest, the German director Peter Stein. Of course it's good, but also in many ways curiously unsatisfying.

Rizzi leads a high-octane, pretty relentlessly driven performance. The pluses are brilliant playing from the WNO Orchestra — the storm interlude makes the opening of *Otello* sound like a light shower — and a barrage of well-disciplined sound from the famous chorus, though when both are going at full tilt in the small and boxy New Theatre the sheer decibelage teeters on the pain threshold.

Possible minuses involve a lack of light and shade, of breadth, of lyricism and irony. If the chorus gallops cheerfully through "we live and let live", the fact that they mean precisely the opposite is less plain. You often feel the soloists, who sing very loudly a lot of the time, need more room to convey subtleties. In its violence, momentum and panache, this *Grimes* is a bit like the Charge of the Light Brigade: magnificent, but . . .

There is a similar lack of light and shade in Stein's direction. *Grimes*, like *The Turn of the Screw*, can be about more or less anything you want it to be about (for another German, Joachim Herz, it was all about economic and social mobility). Does Grimes beat up his apprentices? It's not in the script, and many commentators insist that any abuse is in the minds of the community. But Stein's Grimes, John Daszak, hurls his apprentice — a perfectly heart-breaking performance by young Iain Goosey — about the stage with violent abandon, leaving us in no doubt as to his propensities. Which, I would shyly suggest, undermines much of the point of Britten's opera as opposed to Crabbe's poem.

Are Ellen Orford and Captin Balstrode Grimes's only friends or his worst enemies? Both characters remain curiously undefined, Ellen neither warmly maternal nor an interfering busybody, Balstrode — well, a cipher. What went on in all those weeks of rehearsal that Stein demands, and gets?

Class, that most English of concerns, is muddied: Boles is too dapper to be a Methodist, Carter Hobson, the town bully, is not an artisan, and leads the manhunt because he wants to, not because he's ordered to. The dope-fiend Mrs Sedley is a figure of fun, but the buffoon Swallow isn't. These quintessentially English creatures have eluded Stein.

There is light and shade in the stage pictures, mostly thanks to Heinrich Brunke's glorious lighting of costumes inspired by Frank Meadow Sutcliffe's Whitby photographs. Stefan Mayer's set, a bit boxy and, like the costumes, reminiscent of Elijah Moshinsky's much sharper Covent Garden *Grimes*, is redeemed by an atmospherically lit backcloth and three beautifully made fishing boats. A garish strip-lighting frame should be dispensed with forthwith.

After an uneasy start, Daszak sang the title role extremely expressively, with plangent lyricism in the hut scene and impressive body to his tone in the finale. Janice Watson's Ellen had abundant sweetness of tone but too few consonants. Donald Maxwell (Balstrode), Ann Howard (Auntie), Peter Bronder (Boles), Peter Savidge (Keene), Alan Ewing (Hobson), were all very good, and would be even better were Rizzi to relax the pace just a little.

DONALD COOPER



John Daszak (Peter Grimes) and Donald Maxwell (Balstrode) in the new WNO staging

Raise the volume and risk the fury

Opera buffs may cry 'foul', but *Tosca* is going electric at the Albert Hall, says **Hilary Finch**

Ask any sound engineer at the opera what he does, and the answer is likely to be "as little as possible". Acoustic intervention, otherwise known as amplification, is strictly taboo. Occasionally English National Opera will admit to "enhancing" dialogue for operetta. When amplification was overtly used in Weill's *Mahagonny* nobody was pleased, and the experiment has not been repeated.

When the Royal Opera staged *Otello* and *La traviata* at the Albert Hall, a few microphones were discreetly hidden in the wings. But the philosophy, according to Covent Garden's head of sound, Eric Pressley, was to "make every attempt to avoid amplification by finding a simple acoustic solution". His advice to colleagues is "sit on your hands". But at midnight last Saturday, seven pairs of hands set to work very busily indeed on a network of microphones and loudspeakers within the Albert Hall to prepare London for a *Tosca* the like of which it has never heard before.

Since big-spectacle opera first hit the arenas in the early 1980s, the impresario Raymond Gubbay has mounted six shows in collaboration with Autograph Sound Recording, a company now renowned for its sound-designing of big West End musicals but which, with delightful irony, was born 25 years ago from the impulses of two particularly long-sighted sound engineers from the Royal Opera House. They saw, and heard, the shape of things to come and, after a little practice in shows such as *A Chorus Line*, *Evita* and *Cats*, their company was ready and waiting when Gubbay's *La Bohème*, *Carmen* and *Madam Butterfly* appeared on the scene.

Bobby Aitken was Autograph's sound designer for both *Carmen* and *Butterfly* — and, pilloried by critics, alternately loved and hated by operagoers, he has survived the steep learning curve to arrive at *Tosca*. "It's not about creating a sound spectacular," he says. "We're working intimately with the sound of each voice, and with that eternally problematic Albert Hall acoustic. All we have to do is to make audible what is there. And when Amanda Holden has made such a fine translation, it demands that you hear every word. My aim is that, no matter where you're sitting, you should be able to close your eyes and imagine where every singer is. The amplified sound is an aural stimulus, to reinforce the visual facts."

Bobby Aitken: "making audible what is there"

Radio mikes are essential to Aitken's methods. To opera pros these are an abomination, but Aitken insists they are necessary. "If a singer moves more than ten degrees off-axis in the Albert Hall, you have lost the sound."

And there's another problem. "Sound travels very slowly. As soon as a performer moves 15 metres away from a loudspeaker, the sound from the speaker will arrive at the listener before it's been read on the lips. We're developing a whole new system for *Tosca* which involves delaying the output of the performers' radio mikes until it matches that from any given area."

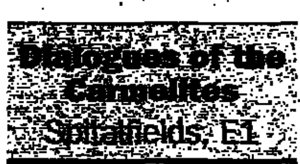
In David Freeman's new production, *Tosca* will be played in the round, and the singers are constantly on the move. Aitken is experimenting for the first time with placing loudspeakers on the floor. "It's challenging, and a bit scary. Usually the principal system is 'flown' — it operates in the air. But here, the main system will be on the floor. We'll be trying to cheat the sound image back down again."

Aitken refuses to tamper with "equalising" the singers' individual voices — and is also all too aware that he has to please several thousand totally differently tuned pairs of ears in the audience. "All I want to do is maintain the credibility of a work which is essentially fragile, vulnerable, and on a human scale."

And not to underestimate Puccini. *Tosca* was so dramatically advanced from anything Puccini had done before that even his librettists doubted its theatrical viability. The opening chords were vibrant with revolutionary new harmonic devices. "And Raymond Gubbay," adds Aitken, "is determined that the audience shall know the overture has begun."

● *Tosca opens at the Albert Hall (0171-589 8212) tomorrow*

Poor lessons in conversation



Dialogues of the Carmelites
Spitalfields, E1

This was the last show to be seen in the little opera house bravely and perhaps over-optimistically built — neither funding nor management has ever been secure — in Spitalfields Market. By the time this appears, demolition will have begun to make room for more retail outlets. If only it could have gone out with something more memorable than Trinity College Opera Group's frankly dreadful performance of Poulenc's opera. If that adjective sounds unduly harsh, it is because such thoughtless treatment of students arouses great anger is this tender old breast.

As might have been foreseen, in so small a space Poulenc's large orchestra was a big problem, a problem hardly addressed. The conductor, Andrea Quinn, showed sympathy for the composer's idiom, but little for her student singers: the players let rip for most of the time — at one point Quinn could actually be seen urging the brass on — and the soloists were left mouthing wordlessly like goldfish. The piece is called *Dialogues of the Carmelites*; if you can only hear brief, disconnected snatches of those dialogues, you might as well go home.

This basic problem was compounded by the Croatian director, Kresimir Dolencic. Much energy had been expended on interesting mime and unhelpful soundtrack effects; if only half as much energy had been expended on telling the students that their first task is to address notes and words to the audience, not across stage to each other or — with depressing frequency — upstage.

DONALD COOPER



Cold comfort: the dying Prioress, Mme de Croissy (Edel O'Brien, left) with Mother Marie (Shona Allen)

You would have thought that the gut-wrenching finale, where the nuns process to the guillotine singing the *Salve Regina*, was foolproof. Not so: Dolencic had an "idea" of such appalling kitsch that I cannot bring myself to describe it in print. Oh, all right then: they return one by one into bright light grinning like apes.

Few of the poor soloists emerged unscathed. Shona Allen (Mother Marie) is already a confident performer and almost alone in the cast suggested that she cared about words. Edel O'Brien (Old Prioress) made much of what must be the most harrowing death scene in all opera — a remarkable achievement from one so young. Ksenia Eremina Jones had her moments as Blanche. Others might have fared better if they had been properly directed and more sympathetically accompanied. Honestly, students deserve better than this.

Grrrrrrr.

RODNEY MILNES

Getting it taped

CONCERT

Psappha
Liverpool

HOPE on the Waterfront is not the obvious place for a concert. But once you are in your seat, looking over the water with the Royal Liver Buildings on one side and the Tate on the other, it doesn't seem so unlikely after all. And the bright, clear sound settles it.

One advantage of the new series of concerts presented by Psappha in association with Hope University College is that Liverpool composers have an opportunity to be heard in their own city. On this occasion it was Robin Hartwell, whose *A Story Recounted* for prerecorded tape and live percussion found a natural place in a programme with Stockhausen's *Kontakte* as its main feature.

A Story Recounted, though not as ambitious in structure as *Kontakte*, is based on an ingenious two-part idea: the second part for percussion alone attempts to recall the first part for tape and percussion together and produces something which is recognisably the same but intriguingly different. It is unusual in that it derives at least as much from the composer's ear as from his technical expertise. It requires the percussionist — Tim Williams in this case — to apply his hearing no less sensitively.

In *Kontakte* it is hard to escape the feeling that Stockhausen was not always hearing what he was scoring for piano and percussion in relation to his prerecorded tape. There were moments in this expert performance by Richard Casey, Tim Williams and the sound projectionist Matthew Fairclough when contacts between the different sound sources were perceptively made, just as there were others when they seemed to have nothing to say to each other. And there is nothing in *Kontakte* to match the wit in the exchanges between piano and tape in Jonathan Harvey's *Tombeau de Messiaen*.

Confronted with the extraordinary variety of sound Anthony Powers finds in a solitary clarinet in his *Sea/Air*, you might wonder if there is any need for electronic extension of natural sound at all. No tape manipulation could have produced a better diminuendo than Dov Goldberg at the end — and there would not have been the added poignancy of having it walked over by footsteps passing by on the Albert Dock outside.

GERALD LARNER

■ **GALLERIES**
Pablo the snapper

ARTS

■ **WORLD MUSIC**
Barbican goes African

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on the Barbican's fine survey of the ways in which photography influenced the great man

Picasso's life through a lens

MARINA PICASSO COLLECTION/GALERIE JAN KRUGIER, GENEVA



The exuberant *Picasso and Manuel Pallares* — just one example of how he used the camera as a weapon in his ceaseless campaign against blinkered ways of seeing

Of all 20th-century artists, Picasso was the one who posed most willingly for the camera, allowing it to scrutinise him in every conceivable mood. As a result, Picasso's own photographic image is as recognisable as any of the artworks he produced.

Until now, the full extent of his involvement with the camera has never been explored. But a large, engrossing survey at the Barbican Art Gallery rectifies the omission, revealing the complex, multi-faceted nature of Picasso's attitude to photography. He used it in different ways according to his protean needs. The camera never threatened to supersede his primary commitment to painting, drawing and sculpture, but it did feed his art, not least by helping him to assess the work evolving in his studio. By taking shots of paintings as they developed, he was able to evaluate their progress. These small, faded photographs, often blurred or faultily exposed, are seldom compelling images in their own right. They do, however, provide fascinating evidence of key paintings at an unfinished stage, and even of works he subsequently destroyed.

> 'He used the camera according to his protean needs'

More exciting are the photographs Picasso took and used as the starting-point for paintings. By the time he had finished with it, the original shot often underwent a startling transformation. In 1908 he photographed his mistress Fernande Olivier with a restless girl, Dolly van Dongen, on her lap. Behind them looms part of a titanic Cubist painting called *Three Women*, its power threatening to overwhelm the figures seated in front. But in a *Mother and Child* canvas executed the same year, Fernande and Dolly are metamorphosed into raw, ferociously simplified beings. Picasso reduces facial features to a brutal minimum. Fernande's hair looks like a blue hat perched on her pink scalp. As for the unsuspecting Dolly, she resembles a wild-eyed carving daubed with thick almond eyes and slanting shadows scored harshly across her cheek.

In this instance, Picasso seems bent on stressing the difference between photographic fidelity and the painter's provocative freedom. By the time he trained his camera on the ancient Spanish hill-town of Horta de Ebro, however, the gap separating the two media had narrowed. Adopting a high vantage that enabled him to gaze down on a huddle of tiled roofs and bare walls, Picasso produced a photograph strikingly akin to his Cubist painting of the scene. Through his viewfinder, the houses' forms were already split into dramatically contrasted masses by the strong sunlight. The angle he chose flattened them as well, emphasising their structure as a sequence of austere, interrelated lines and planes. So the relationship between the photograph and *Houses on the Hill*, a classic early Cubist painting of Horta executed in summer 1909, turns out to be closer than anyone might have imagined.

Still more engrossing is Picasso's indebtedness to photographs taken by others. Sometimes he remained surprisingly faithful to his source: a little studio shot of Fregoli in the role of Paganini, taken around 1900, is used five years later as the basis of a spidery pencil sketch of the virtuoso violinist. Picasso stresses essential contours, heightening the athletic flourish of the player's outflung hand clasping the bow. The only dramatic licence he allows himself lies in the other hand, enlarged to a colossal extent and growing out of the body without an arm. It prophesies, in size and purity of outline, the gigantism of Picasso's Neo-Classical period.

More often than not, Picasso delighted in taking liberties with the stiffness of people posing for the camera. *The Soler Family*, grouped rigidly around a potted palm and other studio bric-a-brac, are all arrayed in their Sunday best in an anonymous 1903 photograph. While retaining some of their poses, Picasso transfers them to the informality of a picnic on the grass. The outcome is bizarre, for the figures are caught disconcertingly between politeness and relaxation as they encircle food, wine and even a dead rabbit stretched out on the white sheet.

The show's great revelation, however, centres on new sources for *Les Demoiselles d'Avignon*, the revolutionary painting that kick-started the entire Cubist movement. Art historians have noted that the brusque distortions of the women on the right reveal Picasso's awareness of African carving. But nobody paid attention to some arresting photographs of African tribal life in his own collection. Taken by Edmond Fortier in 1906, only a year before *Les Demoiselles* was painted, these postcard-size images stress the sculptural presence of African girls and women. Standing or sitting in their villages, they usually look grave and expose ample breasts with an instinctive, statuesque stillness. Most of the prints show single figures, and the Barbican survey displays a variety of studies that Picasso may have executed with their stimulus in mind.

But one in particular, a photograph called *Types of Women*, shows no fewer than nine West African women in a group. Three squat on the ground carefully holding bowls of grain, while the others stand with awesome dignity behind. The monochrome collotype print brings out their carved quality, and the women with arms lifted to support vessels on their heads or shoulders may well have inspired the angular, raised arms of the two central figures in *Les Demoiselles*. It would be easy to exaggerate the connections between *Types of Women* and Picasso's masterpiece. A whole variety of stimuli, ranging from El Greco to Ingres, lies behind *Les Demoiselles*, and its stridency is far more alarming than anything in Fortier's photograph. From now on, though, nobody will be able to discuss Picasso's belligerent canvas without taking his well-hidden cache of African postcards into full account.

Within a few years, though, Cubism had earned enormous admiration within Picasso's circle. He photographed the dealer Daniel-Henry Kahnweiler, dressed in a stiff white collar, gazing at paintings. The image of this well-groomed, fastidious man undoubtedly helped Picasso to paint a great Cubist portrait of him in 1910, fragmenting his features into an intricate, almost tessellated structure where different viewpoints are brought into synthesis.

Increasingly, Picasso also liked photographing himself among Cubist works-in-progress. During the First World War, when he was stranded in Paris, he posed for full-length self-portraits in front of a camera equipped with an "automatic shutter" device. All taken in his Rue Schoelcher studio, they offer insights into his differing moods. He dresses as correctly as a bourgeois businessman in one photograph, cutting a conventional figure frankly at odds with the extreme, near-abstract canvases behind him. Then he poses in a multicoloured, loose-fitting suit, with trousers slightly rolled up as if preparing to wade through a sea of paint. Soon afterwards, he strips, shedding jacket and trousers for one photograph and then posing only in his underpants. Legs wide apart and torso fully expanded, he stares like a prizefighter at a camera now placed very low down. The viewpoint makes Picasso look taller, emphasising his defiant machismo.

The older he grew, the more irrepressible his high spirits became. Picasso enjoyed himself hugely with fashion shots culled from *Vogue* magazine, sketching horny satyrs in ink who ogle and probe the models posed so coyly beside them. The exhibition ends on a euphoric note, with photographs of the elderly Picasso reaching out to embrace his old friend, Manuel Pallares. The artist later scribbled on the prints with coloured crayons, turning both men into bacchic, grimacing roisterers. They sum up the energy and flair that gave Picasso's long career its sustained sense of openness, showing how he used the camera as one weapon among many in his ceaseless campaign against blinkered ways of seeing.

● Picasso and Photography *at the Barbican Art Gallery, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-382 7105) until Mar 28*

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

THERE is a curious idea around that a location has to be exceptional in order to deserve the attentions of a landscape artist. But what, then, are we to make of a painter like **Christopher Bramham**, whose new show is nearly all taken up with landscape, but always recording scenes of the utmost ordinariness?

Most of the bigger pictures are of suburban back gardens — presumably what he sees out of his studio window in Richmond — while the smaller are mostly to do with tumble-down outhouses and corners of bleak fields. His attitude is possibly rather like that of Thurber, who, when asked why all his women were so unattractive, replied: "They are attractive to my men."

Bramham's idea of what constitutes an attractive scene may not initially coincide with ours, but by the sheer force of his fascination he manages to win us round. Also, these are definitely works of art rather than grim records. The colour harmonies are subtle, the compositions finely balanced. Suburbia has not been so transfigured since Lucian Freud gave up painting in Paddington.
Marlborough Fine Art, 6 Albemarle Street, W1 (0171-629 5161), until Feb 27

☐ **Thomas Joshua Cooper** is a landscape artist of another kind. For one thing he is a photographer rather than a painter; for another, though he lives in Britain, he is a 52-year-old Californian and member of the Cherokee nation.

For years he has been fascinated by rivers, their contents and surroundings. Not for him the sweeping panorama: his god is definitely in the detail. His vision is Pre-Raphaelite, his technique of painting his print surface with selenium harks back to 19th-century photography. Virtually all his pictures are so dark that they need close attention to unravel their mysteries. But for those willing to make the effort, his work offers unique rewards.
Michael Hue-Williams, 21 Cork Street, W1 (0171-434 1318), until March 5

☐ PRIVATE means can be a problem. **Cissie Kean** was born in London in 1871 to a family of rich German coffee merchants and was passionate about painting from an early age, against her family's wishes. In her early thirties she broke free and studied in Paris. In England during the war she became friendly with Frances Hodgkins. But in the Twenties she was back in France, moving in avant-garde circles, which explains most of her later style, as seen in this rediscovery show.

It is really more of a discovery show, since most of Kean's work was never seen in public. It looks completely French, poised between representation and abstraction, boldly formalised, brightly coloured, sometimes reminiscent of Synthetic Cubism, sometimes close to Surrealism. For us she seems readily approachable: what a pity that she had to wait for nearly 40 years after her death for anyone to take notice.
Whitford Fine Art, 6 Duke Street St James's, SW1 (0171-930 9332), until Feb 26

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

POP

West Africa finds its voices

It has been quite a week for African music with both the Drummers of Burundi and the Griot Groove tour wending their way around Britain's concert halls. Then, next month, Miriam Makeba plays here for the first time in several years. We are starved of top-class African performers for months, and then a convoy turns up.

At the Barbican, Griot Groove brought together three performers from West Africa's Mandinka tradition — the two divas Kandia Kouyate from Mali and Oumou Dioubate from Guinea and her fellow Guinean, the golden-voiced Sekouba Bambino. All three have splendidly contrasting albums out on Sterns, Britain's top importer of African music, and between them they prove how misleading it is to talk generically about African music.

The diversity between the two women, for example, was at least as wide as that between, say, Joni Mitchell and Tina Turner. Kouyate proved to be by far the most traditional in style. A *jali* (a member of a caste of professional musicians whose tradition is handed down the generations), her transcendental contralto was accompanied by traditional instruments such as the ngoni (a kind of lute), the kora and balafon (a wooden xylophone) and an ethereal female chorus. At home in Mali she is known as *La dangereuse* because her hypnotic singing can make men drunk on her voice. It was easy to see why.

She was followed by Dioubate, an exotically beautiful woman with a more up-tempo dance approach and a series of provocative moves which have earned her the name *la femme chic-choc* (shocking woman). She used her rippling rhythms and powerful voice not just to move our feet but to rail against the injustices heaped upon women in many African societies.

But it was Sekouba Bambino who showed how the rich heritage of ancient tribal custom and the excitement of modern dance grooves can be fused to create something that is both rooted in tradition and dynamic and original. He used an electric guitar alongside the ngoni, keyboards with the kora and a saxophone riffing away on top of the balafon to create a succession of pulsating world beats that soon had the entire audience dancing — without harassment as the Barbican thankfully appears to have finally relaxed its ludicrous no-dancing policy.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

CHIWETEL EJIOFOR



Age: 21.

Profession: Actor.

That name? His parents came from Nigeria, but he was brought up in South London and attended Dulwich College. He's sometimes known as Chiwi.

Big breaks: Playing Othello for the National Youth Theatre, being spotted and landing the role of the interpreter in Spielberg's film about slavery, *Amistad*, while in his first year at LAMDA.

How was Hollywood? "It was a difficult adjustment to make at 19, but I relaxed into it."

A screen future? "I'd like to continue as I am, doing both film and theatre. They are very different disciplines. You start to rely on tricks if you are in film too long. It's harder to fool a live audience."

Present stage: He opens tomorrow in *Splash Hatch on the E Going Down*, a play in the Donmar's American season. "I play the 18-year-old husband of the daughter of a Harlem family. It's about how the environment — the lead, asbestos, pollution — is even worse where there is poverty."

Modern satisfaction: "I'm really enjoying this play. It's emotional, energised, because of the innocence of their love."

Classical ambition: "Last year I toured the country for three months as Malcolm in *Macbeth* with Pete Postlethwaite as Macbeth. Now I'm longing to play the part myself."

In the pipeline: A film, *Greenwich Mean Time*, is due to be released in September. "It's about four characters aged 16 to 23 who all grow up in Greenwich. They all have problems, mental and physical. I'm the rock, supportive when things happen to other characters."

Is directing an option? "I directed at school. So perhaps, but I want to get this right first."

HEATHER NEILL

THEATRE
New York hit for London

ARTS

LISTINGS
Purcell at the Wigmore

THEATRE: Daniel Rosenthal talks to the rolling stone who is spreading the word of the Caveman

On love's long rocky road

On July 17, 1996, West 44th Street, in the heart of New York's theatre district, was renamed Caveman Way. Rudolph Giuliani, the city's Mayor, had approved the temporary change and designated that Wednesday "Caveman Day" to honour the Californian comedian Rob Becker, whose *Defending the Caveman* had just become the longest-running solo play in Broadway history.

For 400 performances, Becker had mused on the various ways in which sexual roles defined in Neanderthal times — "Men hunt, women gather" — now contribute to niggling male-female misunderstandings in kitchen, bedroom or shopping mall. Six months after breaking the record, the 42-year-old left Broadway, hit the road and has since broken the 2,000-performance barrier. From tonight, West End audiences have a chance to judge *Caveman* for themselves, with the Australian comic Mark Little standing up for all things male, while Becker continues a seemingly interminable American tour.

"I think it's going to be a big smash in London," says Becker, speaking from Detroit. "Lots of British people saw the show in New York and told me how much they enjoyed it."

Becker's vision of heterosexual relationships might be subtitled *Men Behaving Mildly*. In *Caveman*, a bloke's greatest crime is to leave a wet towel on the bed. Men adore television, DIY and fishing, abhor housework and struggle to express their emotions. Women adore shopping and gossip and like to be told they look pretty.

The temptation to tag Becker "the John Gray of the stage" is strong even before you notice that the London publicity carries an endorsement from the author of *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus*: "should be seen by anyone who wants to understand the opposite sex". Becker, however, had staked his claim to this lucrative turf 18 months before Gray's book was published. As a newlywed, he had found that laughter was the best way to defuse tension when frustrated by fundamental differences with his wife, Erin. Add in a determination to defend his sex from female party guests who told him "all men are assholes", and his *Caveman* philosophy was born. He opened in a small San Francisco venue in 1991, began to sell out, then moved steadily eastwards, collecting mixed reviews and "house full" signs wherever he went. When he hit Broadway in 1995, lukewarm notices again did nothing to stem the crowds. Word-of-mouth turned an unknown into a phenomenon.

"I think a big factor in the show's success is that at base *Caveman* is a love story between myself and my wife — and with Mark Little the resonance will come from his relationship with his wife," says Becker. "All the differences between men and women are used within the conventions of a romantic comedy. I keep the sexes at odds until the end, when there's a reconciliation."

Caveman's emphasis on the need for couples to acknowledge their differences has turned America's marriage guidance counsellors into some of Becker's biggest fans and he even performed at the annual conference of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. "I've got dozens of letters from couples saying, 'We were having a rough patch and you helped us through it'," he says.

The son of an accountant, he grew up in San Jose, "about as far from showbiz as you can get", and is still occasionally "startled awake" by the success of the show. He need only have cleared $500 from each American performance to have become a millionaire, although his lifestyle remains "pure" middle-class. "We live in Ross, a small town just north of San Francisco, in a nice family house with a big backyard for our three young kids to play in." At about 100 minutes a show, Becker has now spent the equivalent of five months of his life delivering "ever noticed how ...?" observational comedy about adult behaviour — and reckons he is good for another couple of years on the road. His attention is, however, turning towards a sequel addressing the joys of parenthood. In Becker's evolutionary cycle, *Caveman* will eventually become *CaveDad*.

● Defending the Caveman *opens tonight at the Apollo Theatre, W1 (0171-494 5070)*



Stone me: Mark Little, who will be presenting Rob Becker's *Defending the Caveman* in the West End

Three of an unkind



THE domestic interior has come a long way since the days of the kitchen sink. This trilogy of new plays at the Traverse Theatre takes as its starting point the classic family unit within that interior, and sets up even more classic conflicts down the generations within a contemporary setting. Riccardo Galgani's *Acts*, the longest and most satisfying work on show, sees prodigal son Pat returning home after he went out for a pint of milk 12 years earlier. As his all-but-housebound parents Jack and Marie swap niceties, struggling to find a point of connection, a deep, unspoken hurt becomes apparent in them all. Marie's flashes of anger allude to a lingering resentment, while Jack's absent-minded wanderings come out of a desperation to break free of the monotony of life indoors.

Of the other two plays, Linda McLean's *One Good Beating* sees a brother and sister locking their bullying father in the coal shed after their mother's death. Again, all that is really desired is some kind of bonding, and the ties that bind the three prevent the father from getting the kicking he may or may not deserve.

The evening closes with the poet Iain Crichton Smith's final work, *The Visitor*, which sees a retired schoolteacher receiving a visit from an oily adman who speaks in rhyme and may have been a former pupil who suffered at the hands of the teacher's Aryan son. The most elliptical of the plays, it suggests obliquely that the predominance of vulgarian soundbite culture is a direct product of fascist thought.

On Neil Warmington's wide-open set, directors Yvonne Mcdevitt and Philip Howard draw beautiful performances from the four actors involved. Liam Brennan proves versatile in all three plays, but it is Russell Hunter's and Una McLean's heartbreaking Jack and Marie in *Acts* that stick in the memory.

NEIL COOPER

Freshly baked



RICHARD BEAN'S enjoyable new piece is in the tradition of *The Changing Room*, *The Contractor* and *Life Class*, plays that established David Storey as the Royal Court's house-dramatist with their ultra-realistic yet suggestive portrayals of the miniworlds of (respectively) rugby, tent erection and, well, life-classes. When two men reel black-faced into the grotty canteen where the action or inaction occurs, you really believe they have just come from a scorching foray into a dangerously bunged-up industrial oven.

Six members of Richard Wilson's cast absolutely convince you that they are mixers, oven men and "tinner-ups" in a Hull bakery in 1975. The seventh, a tweedy, fortyish cove played by Christopher Campbell, is referred to as a "student", but is neither that nor a self-portrait of an author who once earned bread by making it. All I will reveal is that at one moment he declares himself an Angel of Death; and, no, he isn't that either.

Despite his surreal claims, the play remains in near-documentary mode and, if it has any plot, finds it in the accident with the oven. Has this been engineered by a worker whose technical title is (yes, really) Spare Wank to hasten the closure of an obsolete bread factory and help him to a better job in its thriving counterpart in Bradford? Again, I'll say only that the route to this question is packed with deft, Storey-style observation. Gently, unpretentiously, Bean and a fine cast build up their profiles: Ewan Hooper as taciturn old Walter, unhappy at home and slipping at work; Paul Wyett as the goofy former trawlerman Dezzie; Matthew Dunster as aggressive yet decent Peter; Mark Williams as Blakey, the morose chargehand with the dodgy past; Sam Kelly as the upbeat Cecil.

You'll laugh when Cecil breezily observes that there are many things worse than a nasty fishpaste sandwich, "such as running into a mountain in a light aircraft". You'll also sense the unease, personal and professional, that links him with his comrades.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

RECOMMENDED TODAY

Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargie

LONDON

FALLING: This new David Eldridge play starts with a man in a hospital bed recovering from a mugging. John Dove directs a drama of shock and survival. **Hampstead Theatre** (0171-722 9301). Previews tonight and tomorrow, 8pm. Opens Fri, 7pm. Ⓢ

EARLY MUSIC: Returns only for this third concert by the popular King's Consort in a series of music written by Purcell for the Chapel Royal during the reigns of Charles II, James II and William and Mary. Robert King directs his period band. With vocalists Susan Hamilton, James Bowman, James Gilchrist and Robert Evans. **Wigmore Hall** (0171-935 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm Ⓢ

SHOCKHEADED PETER: The Scissorman is back, wonderfully sinister show by the Cultural Industry team with the Tiger Lillies and Martyn Jacques's falsetto screech. **Lyric** (0181-741 8701). Previews from tonight, 7.30pm. Opens Feb 22 Ⓢ

ELSEWHERE

DARLINGTON: In Jonathan Harvey's new play **Hushabye Mountain**, dead Danny enjoys the company of Judy Garland in heaven while his boyfriend on earth copes with the hole in his life. Paul Miller directs. **Civic Theatre** (01325 486555). 7.30pm. Ⓢ

MANCHESTER: A chance to savour the virtuoso keyboard work of the Russian pianist Mikhail Pletnev, currently on one of his rare visits to these shores. For this concert he has selected an appealing programme of Chopin, Grieg and Schumann. **Bridgewater Hall** (0161-907 9000). Tonight, 8pm. Ⓢ

Mikhail Pletnev gives a rare recital in Manchester

LIVERPOOL: The Welsh mezzo Della Jones joins the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in a performance of Songs of the Auvergne. Canteloube's evocative work is framed in this all-French programme by Poulenc's seductive Les Biches and Berlioz's Symphonie Fantastique. Junichi Hirokami swings the baton. **Philharmonic Hall** (0151-709 3789). Tonight, 7.30pm

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London
■ House full, returns only ◩ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

◩ **COPENHAGEN:** Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Niels Bohr in wartime Denmark. Michael Frayn's enjoyably intelligent play transfers to the West End. Michael Blakemore directs. **Duchess** (0171-494 5075)

□ **BAREFACED CHIC:** Fascinating Aida play here for a month before setting off on their latest national tour. This time Clarke Peters directs. **Royal**, Haymarket (0171-930 8800) Ⓢ

□ **LE CID:** After ten years Declan Donnellan directs Corneille's classic again, this time performed in French (with English surtitles). Received an ovation at the Avignon Festival. **Riverside Studios** (0181-237 1111)

□ **AND THE BROTHER TOO:** Eamon Morrissey returns to the inimitable comic writings of Flann O'Brien, revealing more about "Yer Man" and his curious view of the world. **Tricycle** (0171-328 1000) Ⓢ

□ **HOWARD CRABTREE'S WHEN PIGS FLY.** Off-Broadway hit comedy about putting on a musical revue emphasis on lavish costumes and difficult performers. **Arts Theatre** (0171-836 3334)

□ **HOWIE THE ROOKIE:** Mark O'Rowe's account of Dublin's vicious underworld feuds. Mike Bradwell directs Aidan Kelly and Karl Shields. **Bush** (0181-743 3388).

□ **THE RAPE OF LUCRECE.** Thrilling staging of Shakespeare's poem by Theresa Shiban's Angelus Arts. A company of seven plus sensationally exotic music. **Union Theatre** (0171-261 9876).

□ **THE FOREST:** Alan Ayckbourn adapts Ostrovsky's sardonic comedy, with Michael Feast's impoverished actor trying to impress his rich aunt (Frances de la Tour). Anthony Page directs. **Lyttelton** (0171-452 3000) Ⓢ

FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (PG): Roberto Benigni's romantic Second World War fable stitches a disturbing comedy into the Holocaust. It's supremely well acted, but the comedy about survival in a death camp is at best nauseous.

YOUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS (18): Neil LaBute's withering, sex-obsessed comedy of manners tracks the anxieties of six yuppie thirtysomethings. With Nastassja Kinski, Aaron Eckhart

SWITCHBLADE SISTERS (18): Cheesy re-release of Jack Hill's cult film about teenage delinquents. A gang of sullen females terrorise hopeless police and God-fearing owners of greasy burger joints.

DON'T GO BREAKING MY HEART (PG): Jenny Seagrove and Anthony Edwards star in a quirky Valentine comedy where they outwit the dastardly dentist, Charles Dance

JACK FROST (PG): Michael Keaton comes back to life as a snowman to spend quality time with his son. The heatwave doesn't come quick enough. Directed by Troy Miller.

MY GIANT (PG): Sleazy film agent Billy Crystal discovers a Romanian giant and whips him off to star in bad movies in Hollywood. Big ego trip for Crystal, bad move for everyone else. Michael Lehmann directs

HOTEL DU NORD (PG): Marcel Carné's bitter-sweet 1938 classic about two sets of Parisian lovers has fabulous performances from Louis Jouvet and Arletty.

CURRENT

HIDEOUS KINKY (15): Kate Winslet plays a naive young mother who takes her two young daughters on the hippie trail to Morocco in the early 1970s. Beautifully shot film by Gillies MacKinnon with Said Taghmaoui, Bella Riza and Carrie Mullan

PECKER (15): John Waters's satire on the art world lacks his usual bite but there are enough bad-taste moments to keep the humour bubbling.

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15): Thrilling romantic comedy with a cracking script by Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard. Gwyneth Paltrow excels as the Bard's cross-dressing muse

GOLF

Coltart pipes in the new generation

FROM JOHN GREEN IN DOHA

WITH the defence of his Qatar Masters title about to get under way here, Andrew Coltart was in confident mood yesterday and ready to blow the trumpet for a new generation of Ryder Cup players. The Scot, 28, pronounced Europe's contest with the United States in September as his main objective for the year and gave warning of the stern challenge ahead for the faltering old guard.

The travails of many of Europe's household names have led to speculation that the time is right for change and Coltart was not about to argue after his final practice round. "A lot of guys will play who haven't played before," he said. "All of a sudden Faldo won't be there, nor will Langer, Woosnam, Seve . . . these guys, whether you like it or not, are getting on a bit.

"Everybody out here is trying as hard as they can to get into the Ryder Cup team. It's a goal that you always have to have in the back of your mind. Your immediate goal is to play as well as you can, try and knock a couple of tournaments off and, if you can be successful with that, hopefully the Ryder Cup will take care of itself."

Nick Faldo's late withdrawal from the European Tour event, which begins here today, was a surprise to many, especially after his dismal showing at the Dubai Desert Classic last week, when he failed to make the cut. His admission into the Andersen Consulting World Match Play Championship in California gives him a golden opportunity to pick up points, but the thought of facing Tiger Woods in the first round is unlikely to give a shot in the arm to his already dwindling confidence.

Patrik Sjoland, of Sweden, said yesterday that he believed as many as seven or eight newcomers may make the Ryder Cup team and Coltart thinks that such an outcome would be beneficial. "It's going to be said that the team is too inexperienced, but how do you gain experience without first being thrown in at the deep end?" he said.

Mark James, the Ryder Cup captain, admitted here yesterday that apart from a few familiar names, the final 12 golfers who will fly to Boston are impossible to predict. "I know certain faces are going to be there. I'd put money on them. Monty, Westwood, Clarke, Bjorn will be there, but apart from them, no one is certain. It's up for grabs," he said.

James, who has ruled himself out of contention after a poor start to last year, had no problem with the idea of pushing previously untried players into the spotlight. "The household names are still good players but, having said that, there's lots of young talent out there and they are very good players, and very fit," he said.

Coltart feels that his form is returning after finishing a disappointing joint 41st in Dubai. "The fairways here are immaculate, the greens are fantastic and the tees are great," he said. "Maybe I should have hit a bunker shot today, but I didn't hit any bunkers. Last week was funny — I played terrible tee to green on the first two rounds, but chipped and putted fantastically well. Then I putted poorly while my game came back."

After a few days of heavy rain here last week the course is in fine shape and, with temperatures in the mid-20s, a moderate breeze is the only element that could spoil perfect conditions. Woosnam, David Howell, Mark Roe and Justin Rose provide further British interest in the event, which is expected to receive strong support from Qatar's large expatriate community.



Coltart: confident

LINKS

WEBSITE:
www.europeantour.com
TELEVISION:
Sky Sports 1, 10.30am (live)

Spiriting away the joy of playing

SIMON BARNES



Weekend View

Breaking the law is a very small matter, a venial sin. Breaking a gentleman's agreement is a heinous crime, a mortal sin. That is the ethico-philosophical stance of the Football Association, which was made plain in the extraordinary aftermath of the Kanu Affair.

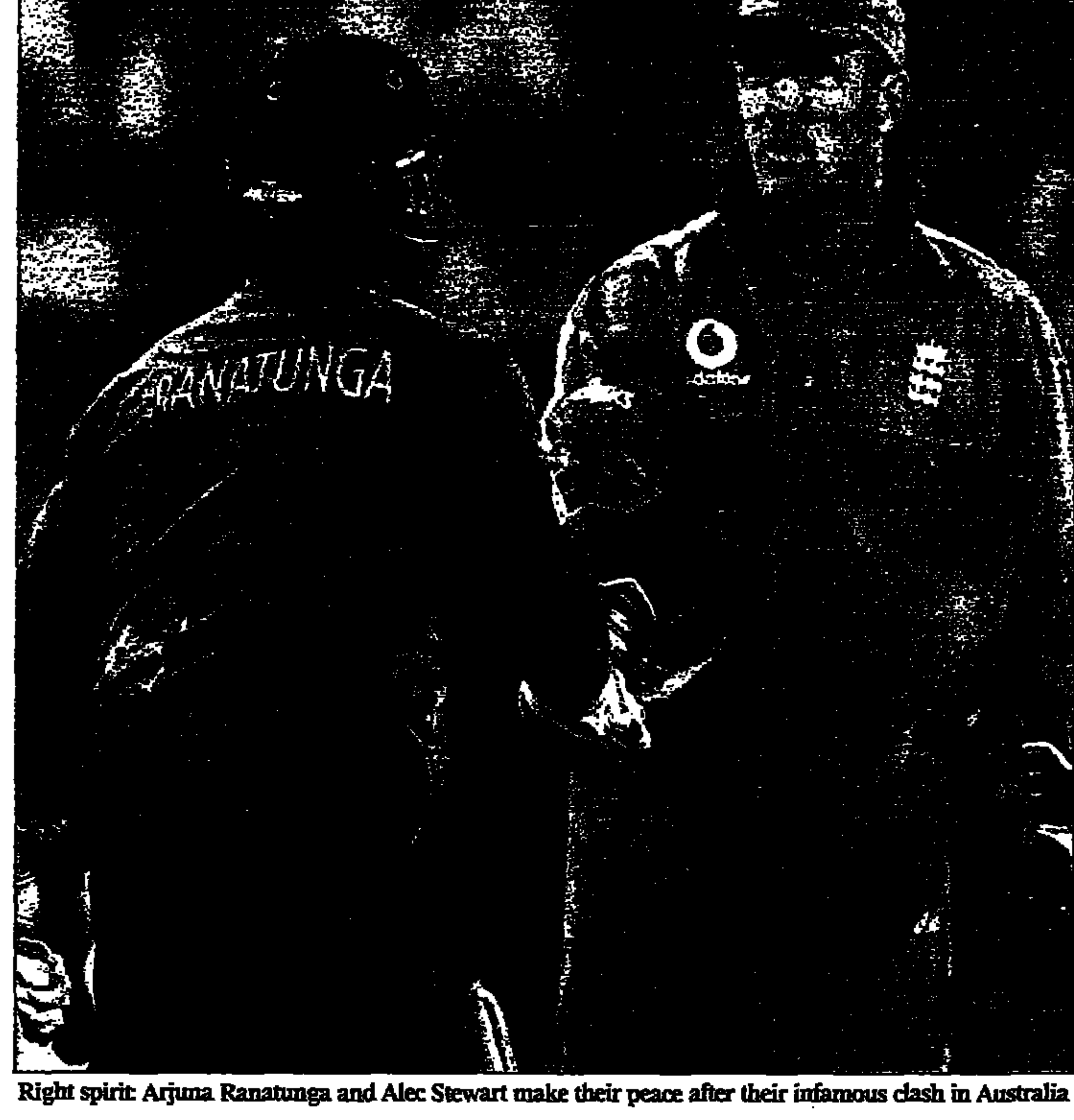
Football has a gentleman's agreement under which a ball is politely kicked out of play when a player is injured, and at the restart politely returned to the side that surrendered it. But Arsenal scored a goal by flouting this convention. Afterwards, Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, said that the match should be replayed.

Astonishingly, the FA at once agreed. You don't get a replay if you are the victim of cheating. But if it is a gentleman's agreement, that is another matter entirely. The FA is in the position of the gentleman about town — I pay my gambling debts at once, but my tailor can wait two years. Honour takes precedence over law.

Oddly enough, cricket is trying to bring honour and law together. A seven-point preamble to the new edition of the Laws, which will be published next year, is entitled "The Spirit of Cricket", and I read that "it will not itself be one of the laws, but will carry the force of law". Which doesn't seem to me to eradicate all confusion. In fact, I don't understand it. Perhaps cricket is not about deciding which is the better team, but a way of gathering air miles to heaven.

You must not, for example "seek to distract an opponent either verbally or by harassment with persistent handclapping or unnecessary noise under the guise of enthusiasm or motivation of one's own side". At a stroke, all of cricket becomes impossible.

As a wicketkeeper, my best asset was my ability to suck air through my teeth in a fashion that could be heard 15 yards away. I used the technique to express my amazement that so excellent a ball somehow failed to find an edge or scrape a stump. No point in being amazed if the batsman can't hear you. But teeth-sucking must now be illegal.



Right spirit: Arjuna Ranatunga and Alec Stewart make their peace after their infamous clash in Australia

"Bowled, Fish, bowled!" Slapping the gauntlets together like a woman beating a carpet, I wanted the batsman to feel that he was caught between an untamed force of nature at one end and a hostile human presence at the other. Nothing nasty, but it is a fact that encouraging the bowler is by definition a form of discouraging the batsman.

I remember a batsman once asking for dead silence when he was batting, please. "Shhh! Shhh!" we said before the bowler began his run-up. Every time. And then when slips and bowlers changed ends, we did so on tiptoe. Teehee. But all these joco-serious exchanges, part of the warp and woof of cricket, are now against the law. So is the pastime of appealing for the simple joy if it. You don't expect or even want the batsman to be given out. It's just a nice din to make on a sunny afternoon, and nice to rub in the fact that the batsman has been beaten. And that, too, is now illegal. It is part of every game, but not, apparently, part of the spirit of cricket, what they call "the spirit of fair play".

'Perhaps cricket is merely a way of gathering air miles to heaven'

The spirit of cricket exists, but, like the spirit of football or the spirit of anything, it is elusive of definition. The attempt to define it with words assumes that the spirit can be separated from the body, that it exists, as it were, platonically.

But the spirit of any game only exists as a living thing, as part of the comings and goings of the game. A few years ago, the convention of footballers kicking the ball into touch didn't exist. It has grown up, and it is a pleasant thing, like the handshakes when hostilities have ceased. They are courtesies that demonstrate that the encounter between the players is not a serious matter. Serious, I mean, as in life and death.

Perhaps the spirit of sport lies in the recognition that, at bottom, it is not war. As stakes rise, so games become more important. But if they lose every aspect of play, they become a war without weapons, an insupportable absurdity.

The small courtesies demonstrate that sport is essentially frivolous and that understanding is a key to much of sport's pleasure.

Sport is pleasurable because it doesn't matter. The spirit of fair play does not matter, either. What matters is the spirit of play. Sport is not a matter of life and death: it is merely a matter of life.

SNOOKER

O'Sullivan granted free ride by Birch

BY PHIL YATES

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, the holder, enjoyed a free passage into the second round of the Scottish Open in Aberdeen yesterday when his scheduled opponent, Jon Birch, of Middlesbrough, missed his flight to the granite city.

Birch, who supplements his modest income from snooker as a fitted kitchen salesman, failed in his attempts to charter a helicopter at Newcastle airport and, with insufficient time to drive to the event, had no option but to withdraw. He will hope that he has less trouble fulfilling his next engagement. After surprisingly overcoming Jimmy White in the final qualifying round of the China International, he must travel to Shanghai next month.

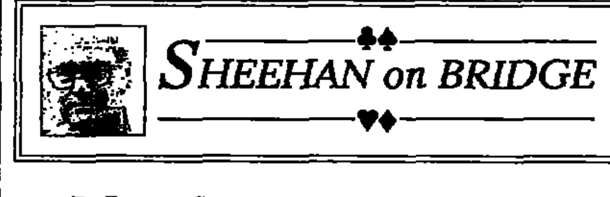
O'Sullivan advances to meet Paul Hunter in the last 32, but three members of the elite top 16 in the world rankings, including Steve Davis, were eliminated. Many knowledgeable observers could not remember the six-time world champion playing so poorly as he did during his 5-1 defeat by Darren Clarke.

Neither could Davis. "It wasn't a bad day at the office, it was much worse than that," he said. "I didn't do anything properly." Though discouraging for Davis, the outcome vindicated Clarke's decision to battle on through physiotherapy after suffering whiplash injuries in a car accident on the M1 in 1997.

Ken Doherty, the world No 4, survived an awkward opener against Joe Swail, from Northern Ireland, winning 5-2 and then calling for a rethink of the snooker calendar to prevent burnout of the top players.

Doherty, who lost to John Higgins in the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley on Sunday, could be in action every day until Sunday if he reaches another final, said: "The season should be spaced out. We should have ten ranking tournaments with players able to choose any eight. At the moment they all come one after the other. It has really only affected me this week, but I imagine it takes a toll on players like Mark Williams and John Higgins, who have been more consistent."

Alain Robidoux, the world No 14, was beaten 5-2 by Drew Henry, but Mark King, the No 16 seed, who defeated White and Peter Ebdon en route to the quarter-finals of the Masters last week, lost 5-2 to Quinten Hann, of Australia.



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Going into Board 62 of the 64-board match in the 1998 Gold Cup semi-final between Cohen and Price, Cohen was behind by 18 IMPs. They got 11 back on this sharp defence from Sandkvist and Cohen.

Dealer South | Love all | IMPs

North: ♠ Q 8 ♡ A J ♢ A Q J 10 8 6 ♣ 9 7 2

West: ♠ J 6 5 ♡ Q 10 8 7 4 ♢ – ♣ K Q 8 6 4

East: ♠ K 4 ♡ K 9 3 2 ♢ 7 4 3 2 ♣ J 10 5

South: ♠ A 10 9 7 3 2 ♡ 6 5 ♢ K 9 5 ♣ A 3

S	W	N	E
Simpson	*Sandkvist*	*Hallberg*	*Cohen*
1S	Pass	2D	Pass
2S	Pass	4S	All Pass

Contract: Four Spades by South. Lead: king of clubs.

Sandkvist's opening lead of the king of clubs was allowed to hold. He switched to the seven of hearts, which declarer won with the ace to lead the queen of spades from dummy. East covered, declarer took the ace and led a low spade towards the eight.

Sandkvist went in with the jack and continued with the ten of hearts. When Cohen won with the king he could tell declarer would not have another heart. If declarer had had three hearts he could not afford the line of play he had followed – he would have ducked a heart and attempted to take a heart ruff. So Cohen found the killing switch – a diamond, giving West a ruff for one off.

At the other table Irving Gordon as North bid Three Hearts after the auction had started One Spade – Two Diamonds – Two Spades. Then when Boris Schapiro rebid Three No-Trumps he removed to Four Spades. That made Wright (sitting West) think North had a three-suited hand short in clubs, so he led a trump, solving all declarer's problems; he made eleven tricks.

In the other semi-final, both North-South pairs made Four Spades.

☐ From 27 February for a week I will be enjoying the sunnier climate of the island of Malta for their annual Festival of Bridge. Anyone interested in joining me should contact Sally Brock on 01494 450620.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

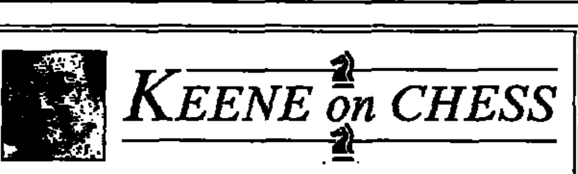
EXERCITOR
a. A type of gladiator
b. A Roman trainer
c. A marine businessman

DIMARIS
a. A syllogism
b. A peninsula
c. An edible bivalve

EXSPUITION
a. Extreme haste
b. Contempt
c. Spitting out

DELIBATE
a. A confirmed bachelor
b. To taste
c. To pour a libation

Answers on page 42



KEENE on CHESS

BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Fifty years ago

Of the various events in 1949, one of the most prominent was the international tournament in Venice. It featured one of the better performances of Harry Golombek, who had served as a code-breaker at Station X, Bletchley Park, during World War II and went on to become a long serving chess correspondent for *The Times*. In 1985, Golombek was awarded the grandmaster title *honoris causa*.

In the following game Golombek beats off a ferocious sacrificial attack from his opponent, the dangerous Franco-Polish grandmaster Tartakower.

White: Savielly Tartakower
Black: Harry Golombek
Venice 1949
Slav Defence

1	c4	Nf6
2	Nc3	d5
3	d4	c6
4	Bg5	dxc4
5	a4	Nd5
6	e4	Nxc3
7	bxc3	b5
8	Nf3	Bg4
9	axb5	cxb5
10	Qb1	a6
11	Ne5	Bc8
12	Be3	f6
13	Nxc4	bxc4
14	Bxc4	e6
15	Qa2	Qd6
16	f4	Be7
17	e5	Qd7
18	d5	exd5
19	Bxd5	Bb7
20	Bf7+	Kf8
21	0-0	Qc6
22	Bh5	g6
23	Bf3	Qc8
24	Bxb7	Qxb7
25	f5	g5
26	Qe6	Qc6
27	Bd4	Qxe6
28	fxe6	f5
29	Rxf5+	Ke8
30	Be3	h6
31	Rb1	Rf8
32	g4	Nc6
33	Rb6	Rxf5
34	gxf5	Nxe5
35	Bd4	Nf3+
36	Kf2	Nxd4
37	cxd4	a5
38	Ke3	a4
39	Rb2	a3
40	Ra2	Rb8
41	f6	Rb3+

White resigns

Diagram of final position

Keene online

You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times Weekend column.

Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from International Grandmaster Raymond Keenes daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B.T. Batsford Ltd (tel: 01797 369966 at £6.99+p&p).

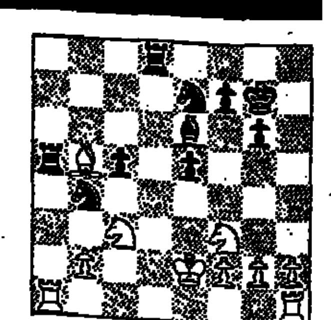
☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Adu-Laouini, Cairo 1998.

How did Black exploit the superior activity of his forces in fine style?



Solution on page 42

Robert Wright finds the champion jockey riding to form in Hong Kong

Fallon's star shines brightly in the East

After winning his second successive jockeys' title, Kieren Fallon could have been forgiven for joining the traditional Newmarket winter migration to the West Indies. Some hope.

Coming to the end of a successful three-month stint in Hong Kong, Fallon's appetite for winners seems as insatiable as ever. Worst still for his rivals, he believes that he will return better than ever.

Fallon has long been recognised as a jockey of rare strength in a finish. With most races at Hong Kong's two tracks — Sha Tin and Happy Valley — comprising sprint handicaps around a sharp bend, he has had to adapt to the frantic tempo.

"With the tracks being so tight, you really have to watch out," he said. "There are some good jockeys out here, but there are plenty of bad ones, too — particularly some of the apprentices. I think I will be sharper than ever when I get back."

Fallon has broken the 200-winner barrier in both of his championship years, and anyone hoping to usurp his position will have an uphill battle if he hits his targets. "My main aim is to become the first jockey to ride more than 200 winners for three years in a row. Barring injury and suspensions, I think I have a great chance."

Further bad news for pretenders to his title is that Fallon believes that Henry Cecil, his main employer, has "the strongest team since I've been there." With Ian Balding having secured second claim on his services, the outlook has never been brighter for him.

The Irishman has certainly made a huge impact on the gambling-mad Chinese since his arrival in the former British colony. A total of 16 winners may not sound too exciting, but with an average of just two meetings a week, he has rarely left the track empty-handed. Given the competitive nature of the racing, his strike rate - at around one in seven the best in the jockeys' table - makes impressive reading.

Both tracks in Hong Kong are tight and right-handed, but Happy Valley, surrounded by high rise blocks and neon lights, is Fallon's favourite. "The atmosphere is just electric," he said. "It's like Chester, but under floodlights and with much bigger crowds."

The lack of racing every day has given Fallon the chance to relax more than usual. Not that that is high on his list of priorities. He has been unable to resist the lure of regular trips to India, most recently last weekend when he played a starring role for a visiting team of riders in a match against the locals.

Racing in Hong Kong is as close to perfection as it can be for a jockey (or owner, trainer and punter, for that matter). Average prize-money per race of HK$755,000 (about £60,000) is the highest in the world. The lowest grade of races carry prize-money of HK$419,000. The financial situation is bolstered by a maximum income tax rate of 15 per cent.

Fallon is understandably delighted to have received his invitation from the Hong Kong Jockey Club (HKJC). "You are looked after brilliantly — I am living just over the road from Sha Tin. There are no expenses. The accommodation is provided and the owners love to take you out. With the tax rate being so low, you could soon make yourself financially secure out here."

The reasons for this apparent eutopia are simple. One, racing provides the only legal form of gambling. Two, there are no bookmakers syphoning off large profits.

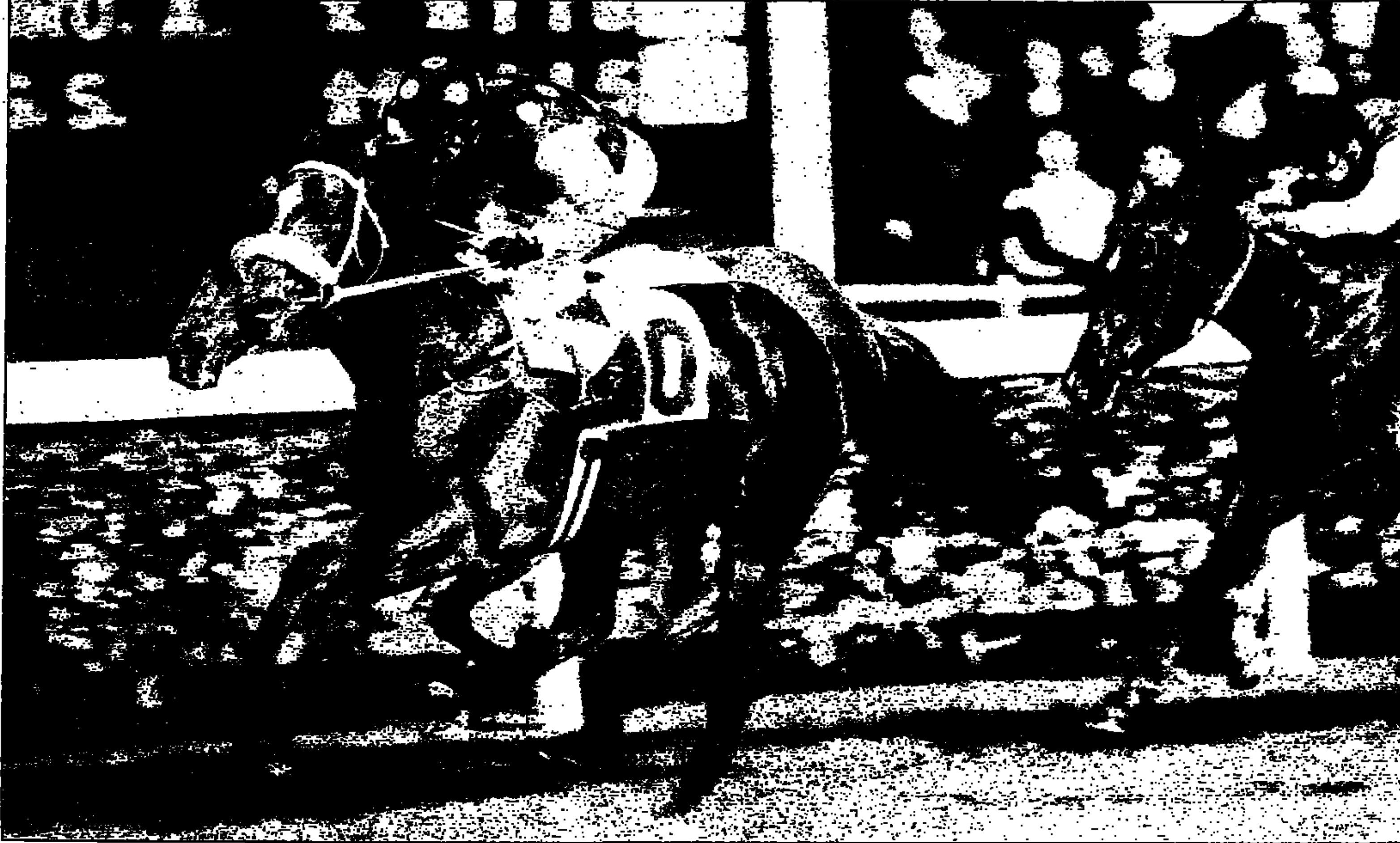
The HKJC recently produced its annual report for 1998, and the figures are mind-boggling; betting turnover of HK$91,413 million (£7,319 million), from just 75 meetings, generated HK$12,069 million in tax revenue for the Government. Even with such a large slice being taken, punters receive 81.4 per cent of their money back and there is plenty left for the racing industry.

Betting turnover is of paramount importance. The HKJC is acutely aware of which type of race punters wish to bet on. Large fields of maidens are not the order of the day — most races are competitive handicaps.

The average prize-money won by a horse in training last season was HK$360,000. The British Horseracing Board, in its eternal struggle to take more crumbs from the bookmakers' table, can only dream of such riches.

Fallon, not surprisingly, would "very much" like to be invited again next year. He leaves after racing on February 27, before broadening his horizons still further when competing for Europe against the United States in California on March 15.

There is no danger of him being ring-rusty for the start of the new turf Flat season at Doncaster on March 25. It would take a brave man to bet against him retaining his title.


ALAN CHUNG

Fallon swoops on the outside to claim another winner at Happy Valley and continue his winning ways in Hong Kong this winter

Sedgefield pile-up, page 1

Tote lines up £2m sponsor package

By Richard Evans
Racing Correspondent

THE Tote is contributing a record £2 million to race sponsorship over the next 12 months — almost a 50 per cent increase on the previous year.

More than 200 races will be supported by the pool betting organisation, compared to 110 in 1998-9, and all of Britain's 59 racecourses wil benefit from the largesse.

The biggest increase in sponsorship will see the Tote taking on the Showcase race programme, previously supported by the company alongside the other big bookmakers. The plan to create a feature betting race every day was launched at the start of last year's Flat season and has proved increasingly popular.

Peter Jones, the Tote chairman, said: "The idea was to give one race a day a good boost, to lift it out of the ordinary and give the betting public something to excite them on a daily basis. The concept has worked well and is improving all the time.

"The other bookmakers were generous in their support up until now, but that financial backing was never open-ended. In order for Showcase to develop, it has been necessary for us to pledge our backing for what we believe is a real winner."

The highlights of the Tote sponsorship programme include the Cheltenham Gold Cup, the International Handicap at Ascot, the Cesarewitch and the Cambridgeshire, the Ebor, the Chester Cup and the Silver Bowl at Haydock, which is being doubled in value.

FOLKESTONE

THUNDERER
2.00 Running Man
2.30 Henry Cando
3.00 Salmon Breeze
3.30 The Minder
4.00 Edan Heights
4.30 Titus Andronicus
5.00 Dromdoran

Timekeeper's top rating: 4.00 **TAKEAMEMO**.

Carl Evans: 4.30 Titus Andronicus.

GOING: CHASES: GOOD TO SOFT; HURDLES: SOFT — SIS

2.00 BURMARSH NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,854: 2m 1f 110yd) (14 runners)

1 21 ARCTIC FANCY 30 (D,S) (Cool Customers) J G Smyth-Osborne 6-11-9 — W Marston
2 F14 RUNNING MAN 11 (S) (Mrs C Waters) P R Webber 5-11-9 — J Osborne 87
3 0-0 BARAN ITSU 30 (F Williams) K Burke 5-11-3 — B Fenton —
4 00P-6 COASTGUARDS HERO 11F (D Newman) B Pearce 6-11-3 — M Batchelor (5) —
5 DOC RYAN'S 78F (P Flavin) M Ryan 5-11-3 — J Ryan —
6 60-P ELVIS 48 (Chap Quartet) L Wells 6-11-3 — L Aspell —
7 0- GEORDIE LAD 398F (Miller Place Partnership) M Bradstock 5-11-3 — C Llewellyn —
8 P JEAN PIERRE 28 (P Burnett) J Banks 6-11-3 — R Thornton —
9 PP MORE FUN 13 (M Banks) M Banks 6-11-3 — M Richards —
10 4 RHEINGOLD 28 (Chasers III) Mrs A E Johnson 5-11-3 — A P McCoy 81
11 0- SLEIPNIR 364 (Mrs J Grist) D Grissell 6-11-3 — J R Kavanagh —
12 0F20 TELLION 30 (V) (Come Racing Ltd) J Jenkins 5-11-3 — M A Fitzgerald 50
13 THE BOREEN STALKER (Luke Dace) L A Dace 8-11-3 — O Burrows (5) —
14 WHERE'S ALBERT 254F (J Daniels) J R Poulton 4-10-7 — B Powell —

BETTING: 4-7 Running Man, 5-2 Arctic Fancy, 6-1 Rheingold, 14-1 Tellion, 16-1 Doc Ryan's, 50-1 Baran Itsu, Jean Pierre 66-1 others.

1998: NO CORRESPONDING MEETING.

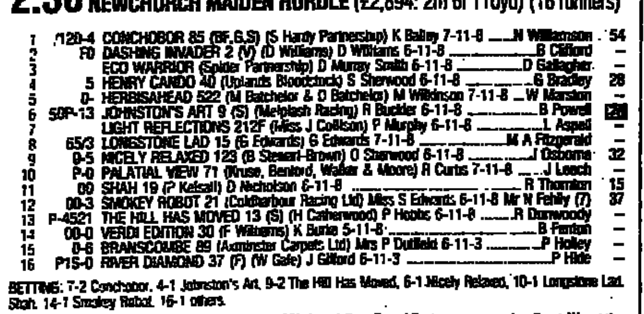

FORMGUIDE: Arctic Fancy beat Ayem 7l in 10-runner novice hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, heavy) with Tellion (6lb better off) beaten a distance 8th. Running Man 22l 4th of 6 to Tonoco in novice hurdle grade 2 at Wetherby (2m, good to soft); previously beat Es Go 22l in 12-runner novice hurdle at Musselburgh (2m, good to soft). Doc Ryan's fair middle-distance handicapper on the Flat. Rheingold 8¼l 4th of 17 to Gemstone in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft) with Jean Pierre (levels) pulled up.

RUNNING MAN proved a shade disappointing upped in grade latest but has strong claims in this company

2.30 NEWCHURCH MAIDEN HURDLE (£2,894: 2m 6f 110yd) (16 runners)

1 /120-4 CONCHOBOR 85 (BF,G,S) (S Hardy Partnership) K Bailey 7-11-8 — N Williamson 54
2 F0 DASHING INVADER 2 (V) (D Williams) D Williams 6-11-8 — B Clifford —
3 ECO WARRIOR (Spider Partnership) D Murray Smith 6-11-8 — D Gallagher —
4 5 HENRY CANDO 40 (Uplands Bloodstock) S Sherwood 6-11-8 — G Bradley 28
5 0- HERBISAHEAD 522 (M Batchelor & D Batchelor) M Wilkinson 7-11-8 — W Marston —
6 50P-13 JOHNSTON'S ART 9 (S) (Melplash Racing) R Buckler 6-11-8 — B Powell
7 LIGHT REFLECTIONS 212F (Miss J Collison) P Murphy 6-11-8 — L Aspell —
8 65/3 LONGSTONE LAD 15 (G Edwards) G Edwards 7-11-8 — M A Fitzgerald —
9 0-5 NICELY RELAXED 123 (B Stewart-Brown) O Sherwood 6-11-8 — J Osborne 32
10 P-0 PALATIAL VIEW 71 (Kruse, Benford, Walker & Moore) R Curtis 7-11-8 — J Leach —
11 00 SHAH 19 (P Kelsall) D Nicholson 6-11-8 — R Thornton 15
12 00-3 SMOKEY ROBOT 21 (Coldharbour Racing Ltd) Miss S Edwards 6-11-8 — Mr N Fehily (7) 37
13 P-4521 THE HILL HAS MOVED 13 (S) (H Catherwood) P Hobbs 6-11-8 — R Dunwoody —
14 00-0 VERDI EDITION 30 (F Williams) K Burke 5-11-8 — B Fenton —
15 0-6 BRANSCOMBE 89 (Axminster Carpets Ltd) Mrs P Dutfield 6-11-3 — P Holley —
16 P15-0 RIVER DIAMOND 37 (F) (W Gale) J Gifford 6-11-3 — P Hide —

BETTING: 7-2 Conchobor, 4-1 Johnston's Art, 9-2 The Hill Has Moved, 6-1 Nicely Relaxed, 10-1 Longstone Lad, Shah, 14-1 Smokey Robot, 16-1 others.


FORMGUIDE: Conchobor 36l 4th of 9 to True Mission in novice hurdle at Worcester (3m, heavy); previously 55l 21st of 25 to Alexander Banquet in national hunt flat race at Cheltenham (2m 110yd, good). Dashing Invader 53l 9th of 15 to Dublin River in maiden claiming hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good). Henry Cando 36l 5th of 17 to Midfair in maiden hurdle at Ludlow (2m 5f 110yd, good to soft). Herbisahead 10l 7th of 19 to Luggsy in national hunt flat race at Worcester (2m, good). Johnston's Art 24l 3rd of 10 to Master Pilgrim in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, good to soft); previously beat Bowl Of Gold 15l in 9-runner national hunt flat race at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). Longstone Lad 23l 3rd of 12 to Storm Castle in maiden hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good to soft). Nicely Relaxed 16l 5th of 16 to Lord Noelie in novice hurdle at Stratford (2m 6f 110yd, good); previously 17l 7th of 13 to Crazy Horse in national hunt flat race at Ayr (2m, good). Palatial View 29l 9th of 17 to Canasta in national hunt flat race at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft). Shah 43l 12th of 17 to All Gong in novice hurdle at Doncaster (2m 4f, good to soft). Smokey Robot 25l 3rd of 11 to Ardent Oliver in amateur novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 7f, heavy). The Hill Has Moved beat Liniyan 14l in 14-runner national hunt flat race at Towcester (2m, soft). Branscombe 26l 6th of 12 to Roborette in mares national hunt flat at Exeter (2m 1f, good to soft).

Bumper-race winner: THE HILL HAS MOVED has the ability to go close on his hurdles debut

3.00 WYCHURCH NOVICES CHASE (£4,143: 2m 5f) (11 runners)

1 3/5/51 HARDING 33 (C,D,S) (S Tindall) S Mellor 8-11-10 — C Webb 102
2 632421 RIPARIUS 19 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs D Blackburn) P R Webber 8-11-10 — J Osborne 95
3 1P1/1U SALMON BREEZE 37 (CD,G,S) (Salmon Racing) N Henderson 8-11-10 — M A Fitzgerald 109
4 12221- ATOURS 481F (F,G,S) (Rose Partnership) Miss A M Newton-Smith 11-11-4 — E Byrne (7) —
5 2-4F BANGOR ERRIS 9 (Chap Quartet) L Wells 6-11-4 — P Holley —
6 3/P-P3 BUBBLES GALORE 37 (Eastwell Manor Racing) T D McCarthy 8-11-4 — D Byrne —
7 3-F243 KENTISH BARD 22 (S) (Mrs G Pepper) N Gaselee 7-11-4 — C Llewellyn 65
8 P213- KING'S WHISPER 304P (G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 6-11-4 — J Tizzard —
9 -50620 MONTROE 11 (D,G,S) (Miss M Tufnell) R Rowe 7-11-4 — R Dunwoody 95
10 1-2P 4 ROYAL RAVEN 20 (G) (A Weller) J Gifford 8-11-4 — L Aspell 77
11 433-53 TAKE MY SIDE 30 (S) (M Roberts) M J Roberts 7-11-4 — A P McCoy

BETTING: 7-4 Salmon Breeze, 3-1 Montroe, 8-1 Harding, Kentish Bard, 10-1 Take My Side, 12-1 Riparius, Atours, Royal Raven, 20-1 others.

FORMGUIDE: Harding beat Spy Dessa 7l in 7-runner novice handicap chase at Folkestone (2m, soft), previously 10l 5th of 9 to Eben Al Habeeb in handicap hurdle at Bangor (2m 1f, soft). Riparius beat Super Saffron 9l in 4-runner novice chase at Folkestone (2m 5f, soft), previously 5l 2nd of 6 to Emerald Statement in novice chase at Folkestone (3m 2f, soft). Salmon Breeze 7l clear when unseating rider last in 7-runner chase won by Danger Flynn at Fakenham (3m 110yd, heavy), previously beat Imad 6l in 13-runner novice chase at Folkestone (2m 5f, good to soft). Atours beat Land Afar 8l in 5-runner hurdle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good). Kentish Bard beaten a distance 3rd of 9 to Ever Blessed in maiden chase at Leicester (2m 7f 110yd, soft); previously 44l 4th of 6 to Samlee in novice chase at Warwick (3m 4f 110yd, soft). Montroe 33l 8th of 13 to Tasseled in handicap hurdle grade 3 at Sandown (2m 6f, good to soft); previously 25l 2nd of 6 to Tresor De Mai in novice chase at Lingfield (2m heavy). Royal Raven 30l 4th of 7 to Aintsuperb in novice chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, soft). Take My Side 11l 3rd of 5 to Indian Run in handicap chase at Plumpton (2m 5f, heavy), previously 50l 5th of 8 to Bramshaw Wood in novice chase at Kempton (3m, good to soft).

SALMON BREEZE would have prevailed but for unseating latest. Compensation awaits

3.30 BILSINGTON HANDICAP HURDLE
(£1,953: 2m 4f 110yd) (17 runners)

1 024-46 MERILENA 103 (D,F,G) (G Hubbard) G Hubbard 9-11-10 — J Tizzard 74
2 -3P264 SOPHIE MAY 22 (C,D,F,S) (J Daniels) Derrick Morris 8-11-9 — B Powell 87
3 -54600 ROYAL ARCTIC 35 (G,S) (T Syder) S Mellor 9-11-9 — C Webb 97
4 0-0F36 BELOW THE SALT 19 (J Dunlop) J Dunlop 6-11-8 — P Hide 85
5 244/24 SUPREME TROGLODYTE 28 (Trogs) C Morlock 7-11-0 — J R Kavanagh 92
6 -50201 ILLUMINATE 12 (S) (J Court) D O'Brien 6-11-0 — J Culloty 84
7 4-U655 EXACT 21 (B,G,S) (Ford Farm Racing) D Nicholson 7-10-12 — Mr H Hackley (7) 42
8 3-0004 CHIEF PREDATOR 12 (V,S) (No Win No Feed Syndicate) D Williams 5-10-9 — A P McCoy
9 025304 THE MINDER 15 (B,G,S) (G Edwards) G Edwards 12-10-8 — M A Fitzgerald 87
10 P-3014 TOPANGA 33 (B,C,S) (Miller Place Racing Club) M Bradstock 7-10-5 — R Studholme (5) 74
11 005253 SUMMER FLOWER 12 (BF,F,S) (B Ward) Miss Z Davison 9-10-3 — D Gallagher 93
12 5-231P COME ON EILISH 79 (BF,S) (Three Horseshoes Club) J Upson 6-10-2 — G Supple (3) 93
13 808/5P HARDY BREEZE 30 (Mrs J Grist) D Grissell 8-10-1 — B Fenton 59
14 560-4U YAK ALFARAJ 98 (Miss J Collison) P Murphy 5-10-0 — L Aspell 75
15 02-000 SURPRISE GUNNER 89 (N Vigors) Mrs M Jones 9-10-0 — T J Murphy 66
16 /P-060 GREENSIDE CHAT 20 (Luke Dace) L A Dace 9-10-0 — O Burrows (5) 41
17 F/0-P4 NIGHT THYNE 48 (M Roberts) M J Roberts 7-10-0 — Mr R Forristal (5) 78

Long handicap: Yak Alfaraj 9-13, Surprise Gunner 9-10, Greenside Chat 9-2, Night Thyne 9-2.

BETTING: 9-2 Illuminate, 6-1 Merilena, 13-2 Sophie May, 8-1 Topanga, Come On Eilish, 10-1 Below The Salt, Supreme Troglodyte, 12-1 others.


FORMGUIDE: Merilena 22l 6th of 8 to Papo Kharisma in handicap hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m 4f 110yd, soft). Sophie May 26l 4th of 13 to Stormhill Stag in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, soft) with Chief Predator (9lb better off) beaten a distance 8th. Below The Salt beaten a distance 6th of 7 to Perfect Fellow in novice hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, heavy), previously 13l 3rd of 12 to Skipcarl in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, soft). Supreme Troglodyte beaten a distance 4th of 13 to Oatheboil in novice handicap hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, soft); previously 3½l 2nd of 10 to Artic Ground in novice handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, soft). Illuminate beat Devonshire 11l in 6-runner novice handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, heavy) with Chief Predator (14lb better off) 18l 4th. Exact 29l 5th of 11 to Ardent Oliver in amateur novice hurdle at Lingfield (2m 7f, heavy). The Minder 33l 4th of 12 to Norlandic in handicap hurdle at Taunton (3m 110yd, good to soft). Topanga 30l 4th of 6 to Falmouth Bay in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, heavy); previously beat Distant Storm 1½l in 4-runner handicap at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, heavy). Summer Flower 9l 3rd of 16 to Park Royal in selling handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy). Come On Eilish pulled up in handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 6f 110yd, good to soft), previously beat Obliterate 2l in 10-runner maiden hurdle at Towcester (2m 5f, soft). Night Thyne 32l 4th of 10 to Jim Jam Joey in novice hurdle at Fontwell (2m 6f 110yd, heavy).

THE MINDER ran well from out of the handicap last time and has claims back off his proper mark

4.00 THREE COUNTIES HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,245: 2m 1f 110yd) (7 runners)

1 303114 SHOOFK 12 (CD,S) (S Devine) S Dow 8-11-12 — R Dunwoody 96
2 63-314 TAKEAMEMO 30 (BF,S) (Sherwood Partnership) O Sherwood 6-11-12 — J Osborne
3 223 EDAN HEIGHTS 12 (Cornflower Partnership) T Casey 7-11-1 — W Marston 100
4 P/460- TUKANO 448 (F) (Mrs T McCoubrey) J Jenkins 8-10-13 — M Griffiths (5) —
5 -P45P0 SHEPHERDS REST 20 (S) (Odd Dozen) S Mellor 7-10-10 — C Webb 84
6 4/122- RODERICK HUDSON 15F (G) (Mrs M Liston) J R Poulton 7-10-6 — A P McCoy —
7 2P65-3 HOT 'N SAUCY 139 (Ruby Red Partnership) J Tuck 7-10-2 — R Bellamy 91

BETTING: 5-2 Takeamemo, 3-1 Shoofk, 7-2 Edan Heights, 6-1 Hot 'n Saucy, 13-2 Roderick Hudson, 14-1 Tukano, 16-1 Shepherds Rest.

FORMGUIDE: Shoofk 11l 4th of 5 to Equity's Darling in handicap hurdle at Lingfield (2m 3f 110yd, heavy), previously beat Turnill House 4l in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Folkestone (2m 1f 110yd, heavy). Takeamemo beaten a distance 4th of 5 to Milkmount in handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, heavy); previously beat Nordansk 10l in 5-runner handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f 110yd, heavy). Edan Heights 11l 3rd of 9 to Heros Fatal in maiden hurdle at Lingfield (2m 110yd, heavy); previously 16l 2nd of 13 to Fern's Governor in novice hurdle at Ludlow (2m, good). Tukano 44l 7th of 14 to Ivor's Flyer in handicap hurdle at Windsor (2m 6f 110yd, good). Shepherds Rest beaten a distance 10th of 12 to Seize The Day in handicap hurdle at Wincanton (2m 6f, soft). Roderick Hudson 10l 2nd of 11 to Snowy Petrel in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, good to firm); previously 1¾l 2nd of 9 to Chocolate Ice in novice hurdle at Southwell (2m, good to firm). Hot 'N Saucy 1¾l 3rd of 5 to Indian Jockey in handicap hurdle at Hereford (2m 3f 110yd, good), previously 23l 5th of 10 to Posh Spice in mares handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 4f, good).

EDAN HEIGHTS, placed in each of his three hurdle starts, appears fairly weighted on his handicap bow

4.30 R. E. SASSOON MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE
(£1,075: 3m 2f) (6 runners)

1 05012/ MR INVADER 655 (G,S) (M Boddington) N Gaselee 12-12-7 — Mr J Trice-Rolph (3) —
2 425/P5 CHARDEN 32P (V,G,S) (Col R Webb-Bowen) J Mellies 13-12-0 — Col R Webb-Bowen (7) —
3 6/P36- CHARMER'S WELL 397 (G,S) (T Curry) G Brown 11-12-0 — Mr N Fehily (5) —
4 133P-F SHEER ABILITY 17P (G,S) (C Foster) R Crosby 13-12-0 — Miss Fiona-Jane Hatfield (7)
5 /P3F1- SPRINGFARM RATH 291P (B,S) (Blowing Stones) G Brown 8-12-0 — Mr T Gibney (3) —
6 2112-5 TITUS ANDRONICUS 31P (G,S) (Miss H Irving) Miss H Irving 12-12-0 — Miss H Irving (7) —

BETTING: 13-8 Titus Andronicus, 4-1 Mr Invader, Springfarm Rath, 9-2 Sheer Ability, 6-1 Charmer's Well, 25-1 Charden.

FORMGUIDE: Mr Invader 13l 2nd of 13 to Nova Champ in handicap chase at Hereford (3m 1f 110yd, good), previously beat Fast Thoughts 3l in 8-runner handicap chase at Windsor (3m 4f 110yd, good). Charden pulled up in handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, good to soft); previously 17l 5th of 10 to King's Treasure in hunter chase at Stratford (3m, good to firm). Charmer's Well 24l 6th of 15 to Tompetoo in handicap hurdle at Kempton (3m 110yd, soft), previously beaten a distance 3rd of 9 to Visaman in handicap hurdle at Warwick (2m 3f, good). Sheer Ability pulled up in hunter-chase at Huntingdon (3m, good to soft); previously 13l 3rd of 6 to Roskeen Bridge in hunter chase at Bangor (3m 110yd, soft). Titus Andronicus 21l 4th of 7 to Jim Valentine in handicap chase at Towcester (3m 1f, good to firm).

SHEER ABILITY, a one-time useful handicap chaser, is worth this chance to show he is no back number

5.00 LEVY BOARD INTERMEDIATE OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT
(£1,420: 2m 1f 110yd) (10 runners)

1 BORING GORING (Goring Hotel) Miss A M Newton-Smith 5-11-4 — G Bradley —
2 32 BROCKTON GLEN 40 (Mrs D La Trobe) R Buckler 6-11-4 — B Powell 87
3 3 DROMDORAN 20 (F Haggas) P R Webber 6-11-4 — J Osborne
4 LISTE ROUGE (Charlton Bloodstock Ltd) R Alner 6-11-4 — A P McCoy —
5 STYX (J Dougall) O Sherwood 5-11-4 — J A McCarthy —
6 02- DREAMINGTON ROVERS 276 (T Dunsley) J Jenkins 5-10-13 — M A Fitzgerald 52
7 CASTLE HILL (Unicorn Partnership) D O'Brien 4-10-8 — M Batchelor (5) —
8 JENSKI (G Galvanoni) T Casey 4-10-8 — W Marston —
9 5 MOLLYCARRSBREKFAST 40 (Mrs J Carr-Evans) W G M Turner 4-10-8 — J Power (7) —
10 NOAH (R York) R York 4-10-8 — Mr P York —

BETTING: 4-5 Dromdoran, 6-1 Styx, 7-1 Liste Rouge, 8-1 Brockton Glen, Jenski, 10-1 Dreamington Rovers, 33-1 Noah, 50-1 others.

FORMGUIDE: Boring Goring Aristocracy gelding out of Coolrusk. Brockton Glen 26l 2nd of 8 to Abalvino in national hunt flat race at Towcester (2m, heavy) with Mollycarrsbrekfast (2lb worse off) beaten a distance 5th. Dromdoran 8½l 3rd of 21 to Devil's Advocate in maiden flat hunt flat at Huntingdon (2m 110yd, soft). Liste Rouge Red Ransom gelding, half-brother to a middle-distance winner in the USA. Styx Over The River gelding, half-brother to 3 winning hurdlers. Dreamington Rovers 14l 2nd of 6 to All Gong in national hunt flat race at Fakenham (2m, good); previously 11l 7th of 16 to Heavenly Glow in mares national hunt flat at Hereford (2m 1f, good). Castle Hill Carlingford Castle gelding out of Alexzena. Jenski Petoski gelding, half-brother to the top staying hurdler Splendid Thyne. Noah Baron Blakeney gelding out of a lightly-raced hurdler

DROMDORAN shaped well when easy to back in a large-field event on his racecourse bow

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Wins	Rnrs	%
P Hobbs	4	8	50.0	R Forristal	3	7	42.9
N Henderson	10	24	41.7	N Williamson	12	43	27.9
S Dow	3	13	23.1	M Fitzgerald	11	47	23.4
M J Roberts	4	20	20.0	A McCoy	9	47	19.1
N Gaselee	4	21	19.0	R Thornton	4	23	17.4
D Grissell	11	59	18.6	R Dunwoody	6	36	16.7
J Gifford	10	60	16.7	J McCarthy	4	24	16.7
R Alner	5	32	15.6	B Fenton	7	48	14.6

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: **Folkestone:** 2.00 Tellion. 2.30 Dashing Invader. 4.30 Charden, Springfarm Rath. **Musselburgh:** 1.50 Madman's Mirage. 3.50 William Of Orange. 4.20 Better Bythe Glass.

RICHARD EVANS

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

☐ **Richard Evans yesterday landed an 11-1 double with Welsh Mountain (3-1, nap) and Noisy Miner (2-1) at Leicester.**

Sedgefield

Going: good

2.00 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Mutasarrif** (S Melrose, 20-1); 2, Galindo (10-1); 3, Jareab (11-1). Lindajane 5-1 jt-fav. 15 ran. 7l, 5l. J Dodds. Tote: £42.30; £8.10, £5.10, £6.20. DF: £521.60. CSF: £199.70. Tricast: £2,146.42.

2.30 (3m 3f ch) 1, **Turnpole** (Mr A Dempsey, 4-5 fav); 2, Menshaar (8-1); 3, Lothian Commander (40-1). 15 ran. 4l, hd. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £2.20; £1.40, £2.10, £10.50. DF: £6.20. CSF: £7.60.

3.00 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, **Caldamus** (A Dobbin, 3-1); 2, Saxon Victory (4-1); 3, Karisma (7-1). Jolly Minster (4th) 9-4 fav. 15 ran. 15l, 2½l. Mrs Merrita Jones. Tote: £3.70; £1.50, £1.60, £2.60. DF: £8.90. CSF: £13.67.

3.30 (2m 1f hdle) 1, **Fatehalkhair** (C McCormack, 5-1); 2, Country Orchid (15-2); 3, Once More For Luck (9-1). Papua 7-2 fav. 12 ran. ¾l, 1¾l. B Ellison. Tote: £5.40; £2.20, £2.60, £2.60. DF: £14.80. Tote Trifecta: £244.50. CSF: £41.23. Tricast: £279.31.

4.00 (2m 110yd ch) 1, **Balleswhidden** (L Wyer, 3-1 fav); 2, Another Red (12-1); 3, Moss Pageant (9-2). 10 ran. ¾l, 13l. R Fahey. Tote: £3.30; £1.70, £2.30, £2.00. DF: £26.50. CSF: £32.39. Tricast: £143.09.

4.30 (2m 5f ch) 1, **Distant Hills** (J Burke, 25-1); 2, Heavy Hustler (14-1); 3, Mike Stan (5-2 fav). 15 ran. 7l, 25l. J Dodds. Tote: £25.20; £3.10, £2.70, £1.60. DF: £171.20. CSF: £316.00.

5.00 (2m 1f flat) 1, **Simple Tonic** (R McGrath, 4-6 fav); 2, Barton Nic (8-1); 3, Lambrini Man (20-1). 13 ran. NR: Mathematical. 6l, 1¾l. T Easterby. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £3.10, £5.70. DF: £6.40. CSF: £8.60.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £9,374.55 carried forward to Wolverhampton today).

Placepot: £703.70. Quadpot: £18.40.

Leicester

Going: chase course: gd-sft, gd in plcs, hurdle course: soft, heavy patches

2.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, **Reaganesque** (R Farrant, 9-2); 2, Kelly Mac (9-2); 3, Daddy Dancer (12-1). River Bay 3-1 fav. 12 ran. 2l, ½l. P Murphy. Tote: £5.40; £2.10, £1.70, £3.60. DF: £11.50. CSF: £22.64. Tricast: £208.96.

2.50 (2m hdle) 1, **Brambles Way** (A Maguire, 7-2); 2, Prussia (100-30 fav); 3, Brancepeth Belle (7-1). 12 ran. 2½l, 7l. F Jordan. Tote: £4.40; £2.20, £1.30, £1.90. DF: £6.40. CSF: £14.35.

3.20 (2m 1f ch) 1, **Boulevard Bay** (J A McCarthy, 50-1); 2, Filou du Bois (6-1); 3, Sweep Clean (12-1). Waynflete 6-5 fav. 13 ran. NR: Smart Guy. 14l, 3l. Mrs P Robeson. Tote: £62.20; £10.10, £2.80, £2.80. DF: £432.60. CSF: £303.16.

3.50 (2m 7f 110yd ch) 1, **Noisy Miner** (R Johnson, 2-1 fav); 2, Dark Stranger (9-4); 3, Oneanthreequarters (12-1). 7 ran. NR: Ivy Boy. 11l, 9l. D Nicholson. Tote: £2.50; £1.70, £1.90. DF: £5.60. CSF: £6.57. Tricast: £35.61.

4.20 (2m hdle) 1, **Goodwood Cavalier** (R Johnson, 8-13 fav); 2, Comiche (12-1); 3, Sadler's Secret (9-4). 10 ran. 1½l, 4l. Miss Venetia Williams. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £1.90, £1.10. DF: £8.40. CSF: £8.51.

4.50 (2m hdle) 1, **Welsh Mountain** (A S Smith, 3-1 fav); 2, Province (100-30); 3, Ring of Vision (8-1). 7 ran. 1¾l, 22l. K Morgan. Tote: £2.70; £1.30, £2.50. DF: £5.50. CSF: £12.10.

Placepot: £252.50. Quadpot: £56.70.

Lingfield Park

Going: standard

2.10 (1m) 1, **Pacific Alliance** (G Carter, 4-1); 2, Legend Falls (5-2); 3, Parte Prima (12-1). Icenic (4th) 7-4 fav. 10 ran. NR: Calldat Seventeen. 5l, 1¼l. R Armstrong. Tote: £6.40; £1.50, £1.40, £3.00. DF: £5.70. CSF: £14.53.

2.40 (1m) 1, **Nautical Warning** (N Day, 25-1); 2, Homestead (8-1); 3, Without Friends (10-1). Critical Air 5-2 fav. 12 ran. 2l, 6l. B Johnson. Tote: £16.60; £2.30, £3.40, £4.70. DF: £125.00. CSF: £197.12. Tricast: £2,009.34.

3.10 (1m 2f) 1, **Van Gurp** (J Quinn, 11-4 fav); 2, Zidac (6-1); 3, Ertlon (5-1). 11 ran. 10l, 3½l. G L Moore. Tote: £3.10; £1.10, £3.70, £2.20. DF: £10.90. CSF: £18.69.

3.40 (1m 2f) 1, **Bank On Him** (J Quinn, 11-2); 2, Thekryaati (3-1 fav); 3, Tallulah Belle (6-1). 10 ran. Sh hd, sh hd. G L Moore. Tote: £10.20; £3.80, £1.50, £1.10. DF: £10.10. CSF: £21.44. Tricast: £96.92.

4.10 (6f) 1, **Bold Effort** (R Cochrane, 14-1); 2, Mukarrab (2-1 fav); 3, Double-O (20-1). 9 ran. 4l, ¾l. K Cunningham-Brown. Tote: £12.40; £2.70, £1.10, £3.00. DF: £17.80. CSF: £38.81. Tricast: £459.38.

4.40 (1m 4f) 1, **Hurgill Dancer** (P Doe, 11-2); 2, Rushad (25-1); 3, Haydn James (11-4 fav). 13 ran. 1¼l, hd. R O'Sullivan. Tote: £7.20; £2.00, £4.00, £1.80. DF: £107.50. CSF: £139.05. Tricast: £436.77.

Placepot: £362.50. Quadpot: £8.10.

MUSSELBURGH

THUNDERER
1.50 Master Tern. 2.20 Zahid. 2.50 Dorans Way. 3.20 Gale Force. 3.50 Charlie Banker. 4.20 Satin Lover. 4.50 **BLUE MOON** (nap).

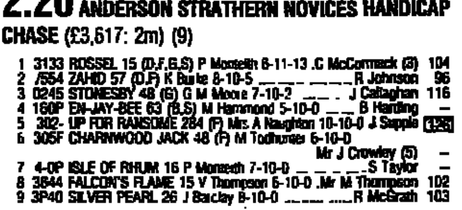
Carl Evans: 4.20 Coole Abbey.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM, GOOD IN PLACES (7.30AM INSPECTION) — SIS

1.50 TOM MCCONNELL MEMORIAL JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O: £2,801: 2m) (14 runners)

1 1 ALBRIGHTON 50 (CD,F) F Murphy 11-5 — A Maguire 87
2 3P2 CURRICULUS 15 M Todhunter 10-12 — C McCormack (3) 55
3 P DIXIT 13 M Barnes 10-12 — S Taylor —
4 0 DORRINGTON 42F B Baugh 10-12 — A Dobbin —
5 000 MADMAN'S MIRAGE 12 (B) V Thompson 10-12 — Mr M Thompson —
6 23 MASTER TERN 51 J J O'Neill 10-12 — R McGrath
7 0P SIMLET 33 E W Tuer 10-12 — K Johnson 20
8 STACCATO 12F D Smith 10-12 — J Callaghan —
9 STAGE WHISPER 256F M Hammond 10-12 — D Bentley —
10 TAAKID 128F M Hammond 10-12 — B Harding —
11 P THE ACCOUNTANT 13 Mrs K Lamb 10-12 — Miss S Lamb —
12 P BEAU VIENNA 44F A Dickin 10-7 — B Storey —
13 PARLEZ MOI D'AMOUR 18F D Smith 10-7 — P Niven —
14 4 STONE BECK 23 J Jefferson 10-7 — L Wyer 20

11-10 Master Tern, 11-4 Albrighton, 5-1 Curriculus, 6-1 Stone Beck, 10-1 others.



2.20 ANDERSON STRATHERN NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,617: 2m) (9)

1 3133 ROSSEL 15 (D,F,G,S) P Monteith 8-11-13 — C McCormack (3) 104
2 /554 ZAHID 57 (D,F) K Burke 8-10-5 — R Johnson 96
3 0245 STONESBY 48 (G) G M Moore 7-10-2 — J Callaghan 116
4 160P EN-JAY-BEE 63 (B,S) M Hammond 5-10-0 — B Harding —
5 302- UP FOR RANSOME 284 (F) Mrs A Naughton 10-10-0 — J Supple 125
6 305F CHARNWOOD JACK 48 (F) M Todhunter 6-10-0 — Mr J Crowley (5) —
7 4-0P ISLE OF RHUM 16 P Monteith 7-10-0 — S Taylor —
8 3844 FALCON'S FLAME 15 V Thompson 6-10-0 — Mr M Thompson 102
9 3P40 SILVER PEARL 26 J Barclay 8-10-0 — R McGrath 103

7-2 Rossel, 4-1 Zahid, 9-2 Stonesby, 5-1 Falcon's Flame, 7-1 Up For Ransome, Charnwood Jack, 12-1 En-Jay-Bee, 14-1 others.

2.50 DICK VETERINARY COLLEGE FYC 2002 HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,827: 2m) (11)

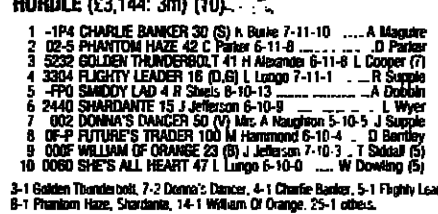
1 1623 UNION TOWN 166 (BF,G) V Thompson 5-11-10 — Mr M Thompson —
2 -112 DORANS WAY 25 (D,F,S) G M Moore 8-11-5 — N Hannity (7)
3 -F15 BIT O MAGIC 15 (C,D,F) R Allan 7-11-0 — A Dobbin 88
4 R3-0 OOH AH CANTONA 88 M Hammond 8-10-13 — B Harding 99
5 2-54 BERNARD SEVEN 13 (G) Miss L Russell 7-10-12 — R Johnson 73
6 050- ADARAMANN 293F (S) I Emmerson 7-10-11 — J Supple —
7 4-PP NORTH TIPP 84 (F) J Barclay 10-10-10 — A Maguire —
8 4526 KIERCHEM 25 (D,F,G,S) C Grant 8-10-10 — R Supple 101
9 -434 PLANNING GAIN 64 (D,F,G) T Dun 8-10-5 — Mr M Bradburne (3) 93
10 4300 PRIDDY FAIR 13 (D,F,G) B Mactaggart 6-10-5 — B Storey 91
11 0P00 KATHYMANN 4 (D,F,G,S) B Ellison 7-10-4 — E Husband 85

3-1 Dorans Way, 5-1 Bit O Magic, Bernard Seven, 11-2 Kierchem, 6-1 Planning Gain, 13-2 Union Town, 12-1 Priddy Fair, 14-1 others.

3.20 J.R. MCNAIR HANDICAP CHASE
(£2,775. 3m) (8)

1 U411 DANBYS GORSE 15 (B,C,G,S) J Jefferson 7-11-10 — T Siddall (5) 92
2 3512 SALEM BEACH 15 (CD,F,G,S) M Todhunter 7-11-1 — C McCormack (3) 84
3 5632 GALE FORCE 48 (G,S) P Beaumont 8-10-12 — B Grattan (3) 94
4 5222 SANTA JET 25 (BF,D,F,S) G M Moore 8-10-9 — J Callaghan 107
5 512- CAMPTOSAURUS 331 (CD,F) D Alder 10-10-5 — A Dobbin 109
6 0P54 MAYBE O'GRADY 82 (D,G,S) W Cunningham 10-10-5 — N Smith 59
7 U045 GERMAN LEGEND 4 (D,F) D Lamb 9-10-1 — Mr J Crowley (5) 112
8 3000 BROWNRATH KING 88 (G,S) C Grant 10-10-0 — R Supple

11-4 Santa Jet, 7-2 Salem Beach, 4-1 Danbys Gorse, Gale Force, 10-1 Camptosaurus, 12-1 Maybe O'Grady, Brownrath King, 20-1 German Legend.



3.50 RAMBLING RIVER NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,144: 3m) (10)

1 -1P4 CHARLIE BANKER 30 (S) K Burke 7-11-10 — A Maguire
2 02-5 PHANTOM HAZE 42 C Parker 6-11-8 — D Parker —
3 5232 GOLDEN THUNDERBOLT 41 H Alexander 6-11-8 — L Cooper (7) 90
4 3304 FLIGHTY LEADER 16 (D,G) L Lungo 7-11-1 — R Supple 90
5 -FP0 SMIDDY LAD 4 R Shiels 8-10-13 — A Dobbin 41
6 2440 SHARDANTE 15 J Jefferson 6-10-9 — L Wyer 89
7 002 DONNA'S DANCER 50 (V) Mrs A Naughton 5-10-5 — J Supple 25
8 0F-P FUTURE'S TRADER 100 M Hammond 6-10-4 — D Bentley —
9 000F WILLIAM OF ORANGE 23 (B) J Jefferson 7-10-3 — T Siddall (5) 40
10 0060 SHE'S ALL HEART 47 L Lungo 6-10-0 — W Dowling (5) 50

3-1 Golden Thunderbolt, 7-2 Donna's Dancer, 4-1 Charlie Banker, 5-1 Flighty Leader, 8-1 Phantom Haze, Shardante, 14-1 William Of Orange, 25-1 others.

4.20 FIFE HUNT CLUB HUNTERS CHASE
(£1,940: 3m) (10)

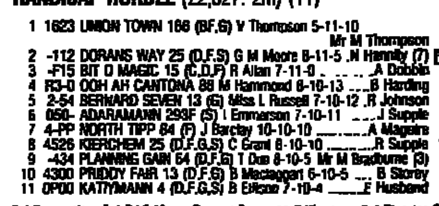
1 1-11 ASTRAC TRIO 10P (D,F,G) J Bowe 9-12-7 — Mrs A Hamilton (7) 54
2 F12- COOLE ABBEY 321 (D,F,G) Mrs C Moore 7-12-7 — Mr M Bradburne 100
3 11-4 JOINT ACCOUNT 249 (D,F,G,S) F E Needham 9-12-7 — Mrs F Needham (3) 86
4 5U2- ACROSS THE CARD 277P (D,F,G,S) C Ramsay 11-12-0 — Mr A Parker (3) 102
5 12-1 BETTER BYTHE GLASS 10P (B,D,F,G) S Shirley-Beavan 10-12-0 — Mr C Storey —
6 6660 ROYAL PALM 13 V Thompson 7-12-0 — Mr M Thompson 43
7 113- SATIN LOVER 268 (BF,D,F,G) Mrs S Dent 11-12-0 — Mr S Swiers 108
8 U0-6 THINKABOUTTHAT 24P (D,F,S) J Muir 10-12-0 — Mr J Muir (7) 37
9 P/P- UNOR 273 (D,F,G,S) P Wilson 13-12-0 — Mr D Reid (7) —
10 5-13 CRAIG BURN 13 (D,G,S) N Ewart 10-11-9 — Mr J Ewart (7) —

5-2 Astrac Trio, 11-4 Coole Abbey, 7-2 Better Bythe Glass, 8-1 Joint Account, Craig Burn, 10-1 Across The Card, Satin Lover, 66-1 others.

4.50 WEATHERBYS 'STARS OF TOMORROW' OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT (£1,702: 2m) (12)

1 CUSH-MA-CLASH M Todhunter 5-11-4 — B Harding —
2 0 HANDSOME HENRY 42 N Richards 6-11-4 — A Dobbin —
3 5 JANSUE CHARLIE 50 R Nixon 5-11-4 — C McCormack (3) 19
4 035 PLENTY COURAGE 19 F Storey 5-11-4 — B Storey 71
5 PRINCE SANDROVITCH J Jefferson 5-11-4 — T Siddall (5) —
6 6 LABOC 103 D Moffatt 5-10-13 — D J Moffatt 43
7 3 BLUE MOON 42 (BF) C Thornton 4-10-8 — R Johnson 55
8 CHARTER ROYAL A Dickin 4-10-8 — D Parker —
9 GREY EXPECTATIONS M Hammond 4-10-8 — N Horrocks (5) —
10 GUNMETAL J Wainwright 4-10-8 — A Maguire —
11 QUALITAIR SURVIVOR T Etherington 4-10-8 — L Wyer —
12 2 REGAL ISLAND 25 N Richards 4-10-8 — T Hagger (7)

5-4 Blue Moon, 2-1 Regal Island, 8-1 Plenty Courage, Prince Sandrovitch, 14-1 Qualitair Survivor, 16-1 Grey Expectations, 25-1 Charter Royal, 33-1 others




WOLVERHAMPTON

THUNDERER
2.10 Mosquero. 2.40 Infamous. 3.10 Italian Symphony. 3.40 Dispol Clan. 4.10 Just For You Jane. 4.40 River Junction.

GOING: STANDARD — TOTE JACKPOT MEETING
DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE — SIS

2.10 DAFFODIL MAIDEN (£2,814: 1m 1f 79yd) (10)

101 05 ABSOLUTE MAJORITY 22 B Curley 4-9-12 — J P Spencer (3) 3
102 00-2 FREEDOM QUEST 16 (BF) B Rothwell 4-9-12 — R Lappin 10
103 030- MY LITTLE MAN 78 B Smart 4-9-12 — P Goode (5) 4
104 6- POLKA 196 C Thornton 4-9-12 — Dean McKeown 8
105 060/ ROTOR MAN 520 J Bethell 5-9-12 — A Culhane 7
106 FINE AND ROSY 25J M Dods 4-9-7 — Dale Gibson 2
107 34- DULFORD 221 B Millman 3-8-5 — Cheryl Nosworthy (7) 6
108 54- MOSQUERO 165 J Gosden 3-8-5 — A Garth 5
109 05- PORT MEADOW 102 R Charlton 3-8-5 — T Sprake 9
110 5 ROYAL MEASURE 25 B Millman 3-8-5 — D Sweeney 1

EVENS Mosquero, 7-2 Port Meadow, 9-2 Freedom Quest, 8-1 Dulford, 12-1 others.

2.40 TULIP CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,068: 1m 6f 166yd) (8)

201 0145 PRINCE DANZIG 18 (C,F) D Murray Smith 8-9-6 — J P Spencer (3) 3
202 1-51 MANILENO 11 (C,D,F,S) Miss S Wilton 5-8-4 — R Price 8
203 5100 EVEZIO RUFO 6 (V,CD,S) N Littmoden 7-8-12 — T G McLaughlin 2
204 0222 INFAMOUS 11 (S) B Llewellyn 6-8-10 — R Havlin 6
205 6-53 ALBEMINE 6 (S) A Juckes 10-8-8 — N Callan (5) 5
206 5-24 MONACO GOLD 21 (BF,F,S) D Cosgrove 7-8-8 — J Quinn 4
207 -006 LOBUCHE 12 (S) M Chapman 4-8-3 — S Righton (7) 7
208 0-04 FULL MOON 11 W Brisbourne 4-8-1 — A Garth 1

2-1 Prince Danzig, 5-2 Manileno, 6-1 Evezio Rufo, 13-2 Infamous, 7-1 Albemine, 8-1 others.

3.10 STANLEY RACING [SHOWCASE HANDICAP AND TOTE TRIFECTA RACE] (£6,970: 7f) (11)

301 -243 CLASSY CLEO 28 (F,G,S) P Evans 4-10-0 — J P Spencer (3) 6
302 -130 THREADNEEDLE 14 (D,F) K Burke 6-9-12 — N Callan (5) 3
303 6612 ITALIAN SYMPHONY 7 (V,CD) P Evans 5-9-7 — C Cogan (7) 8
304 000- DIM OTS 130 (F,S) B Palling 4-9-0 — G Faulkner (3) 1
305 11-2 ADELPHI BOY 28 M Chapman 3-8-6 — S Righton (7) 11
306 30-0 PIPS SONG 11 (C) Dr J Scargill 4-8-5 — G Bardwell 5
307 0-10 COOL SECRET 4 (F) K Burke 4-8-1 — F Norton 2
308 46-6 GIFT OF GOLD 7 (D,F,S) A Bailey 4-8-0 — A Mackay 7
309 2044 GOODMERSHAM PARK 9 (C,D) P Felgate 7-8-0 — Dale Gibson 10
310 0308 REDOUBTABLE 5 (C,D,F,G,S) D Chapman 8-7-12 — L Charnock 4
311 -121 C-HARRY 21 (CD,G,S) R Hollinshead 5-7-10 — J Quinn 9

4-1 Italian Symphony, 5-1 Threadneedle, 11-2 Adelphi Boy, C-Harry, 8-1 Classy Cleo, Redoubtable, 10-1 Dim Ots, 12-1 others.

3.40 FREESIA HANDICAP (3-Y-O: £3,711: 5f) (6)

401 20-3 AA-YOUKNOWNOTHING 27 (D,S) Miss J Craze 9-7 — T Williams 6
402 -141 TROJAN GIRL 14 (CD) N Littmoden 9-4 — T G McLaughlin 4
403 1-32 GRASSLANDIK 27 (BF,D) A Newcombe 9-2 — J Quinn 1
404 6-64 AVONDALE GIRL 8 (E,D,G) C Dwyer 9-0 — N Callan (5) 2
405 010- CELTIC SEAL 89 (D) J Balding 8-10 — J Edmunds 3
406 1-02 DISPOL CLAN 7 (CD,S) D Murray Smith 8-6 — R Winston (3) 5

9-4 Grasslandik, 11-4 Trojan Girl, 3-1 Aa-Youknownothing, 11-2 Dispol Clan, 10-1 Avondale Girl, 12-1 Celtic Seal.

4.10 LILY SELLING STAKES (3-Y-O: £1,856: 6f) (8)

501 5-04 LEGAL VENTURE 7 (F) N Littmoden 9-4 — T G McLaughlin 7
502 -405 LOUGHANLEA 5 (B) D Nicholls 8-11 — F Norton 8
503 -058 ABSTRACT 11 J Wainwright 8-6 — G Bardwell 6
504 DELTA GEORGIA A Bailey 8-6 — A Mackay 1
505 53-6 DIAMOND ROUGE 14 A Bailey 8-6 — R Winston (3) 3
506 0-34 JUST FOR YOU JANE 9 (B) T Naughton 8-6 — T Sprake 2
507 350- MELODY BLUES 173 M Dods 8-6 — Dale Gibson 4
508 2030 RIDDLE 13 (B) P Evans 8-6 — J P Spencer (3) 5

3-1 Just For You Jane, 7-2 Legal Venture, 4-1 Loughanlea, 6-1 Abstract, 7-1 Riddle, 8-1 Melody Blues, 10-1 Diamond Rouge, 20-1 Delta Georgia.

4.40 ROSE APPRENTICES HANDICAP
(£2,190: 1m 4f) (8)

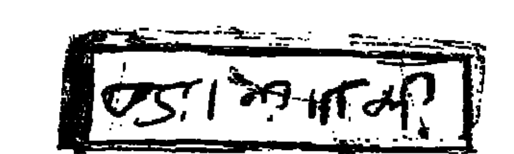
601 350- OPERA BUFF 50 (CD,F,S) Miss G Kelleway 8-10-0 — P Fredericks (3) 7
602 2553 NOUKARI 7 (D) P Evans 6-9-9 — C Cogan (3) 8
603 4611 NIKITA'S STAR 2 (CD,F) M Brittain 6-9-5 (6ex) — R FitzPatrick 2
604 600- ANDAMAN 115 D Murray Smith 5-9-4 — N Callan 4
605 5112 COPPER SHELL 9 (BF,D) Mrs L Jewell 5-9-4 — P Doe 6
606 450- RIVER JUNCTION 211 (C) B Smart 8-8-13 — P Goode (3) 1
607 /40- MYSTERIUM 389 (C) N Littmoden 5-7-10 — R Thomas (5) 5
608 0030 UNITUS 29 (G) M Chapman 6-7-10 — S Righton (3) 3

7-4 Copper Shell, 7-2 Opera Buff, 4-1 Noukari, 9-2 Nikita's Star, 10-1 Andaman, 20-1 River Junction, Unitus, 25-1 Mysterium.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

WOLVERHAMPTON: TRAINERS: J Gosden, 5 winners from 16 runners, 31.3%. R Charlton, 8 from 29, 27.6%. P Felgate, 8 from 45, 17.8%. D Nicholls, 15 from 112, 13.4%. N Littmoden, 48 from 360, 13.3%.
JOCKEYS: N Callan, 4 winners from 12 rides, 33.3%. J P Spencer, 4 from 13, 30.8%. D Sweeney, 18 from 121, 14.9%. G Faulkner, 10 from 68, 14.7%. T McLaughlin, 24 from 165, 14.5%. D McKeown, 38 from 304, 12.5%.

MUSSELBURGH: TRAINERS: J Jefferson, 5 winners from 15 runners, 33.3%. C Grant, 3 from 11, 27.3%. F Murphy, 7 from 28, 25.0%. J J O'Neill, 4 from 19, 21.1%. B Ellison, 4 from 21, 19.0%. M Hammond, 18 from 108, 16.7%.
JOCKEYS: E Husband, 3 winners from 6 rides, 50.0%. A Maguire, 3 from 13, 23.1%. A Dobbin, 17 from 93, 18.3%. P Niven, 12 from 67, 17.9%. N Horrocks, 3 from 19, 15.8%. M Bradburne, 5 from 32, 15.6%.



United manager says recent reverses against Arsenal can be halted

Ferguson has eye on winning the race

By Stephen Wood

THOSE who rail against the superfluous hype accompanying contests involving Manchester United and Arsenal will maintain that, whatever the outcome at Old Trafford tonight, there is time yet for either club to manipulate destiny in the FA Carling Premiership race.

Recent history, however, sides with the glory-seekers. There is compelling evidence that, whenever the reds of Manchester and North London clash in the grey area between winter and spring, the victors flourish and the losers settle for second place from here until May.

TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man Utd	25	14	8	3	59	27	50
Chelsea	24	12	10	2	35	19	46
Arsenal	24	12	9	3	28	11	45
A Villa	24	12	7	5	36	25	43
Liverpool	25	11	5	9	47	30	38
Derby	25	9	10	6	25	22	37

"This is one heck of a big game," Alex Ferguson, the United manager, said. Three seasons ago, in March 1996, United beat Arsenal by a single goal before going forward to claim the Double. Two seasons ago, almost to the day, United triumphed by a single goal at Highbury and the title was theirs. Last season, in March, Arsenal won, courtesy of a solitary strike from Marc Overmars.

The visitors to Old Trafford that day drew so much confidence from that moment that they did not drop any more points until the Premiership crown had been wrenched from United's grasp. Ferguson is in no doubt as to its impact. "We lost the championship that day," he said.

Over the course of those three years, Ferguson has seen Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, grow from being a newcomer that he could dominate to an equal he can respect, if a little begrudgingly. Yesterday, Wenger was not backward in coming forward. "We know we can beat United," he said.

"There is no longer a psychological handicap for us, because our record against them recently is so good. It has been a difficult few days for the club, but the players are focused and they have forgotten what happened in the game with Sheffield United last weekend.

"Our win in the match against United last year put our fate in our own hands. Beforehand, I was only thinking that if we could get a draw, it would not be such a bad result for us." Despite his bullishness, a similar sentiment may hold sway once more. Last season, United were seriously understrength; this time, the misfortune is reversed.

Roy Keane, Gary Pallister, Nicky Butt and Ryan Giggs were missing from the United side 11 months ago. Arsenal, with Vieira and, in particular, Emmanuel Petit magnificent in midfield, took advantage.

Petit is suspended tonight, however. Likewise Dennis Bergkamp, while Martin Keown, who yesterday urged his club to present him with a new contract that would keep him at Highbury for the rest of his career, is also absent. He is suffering from the hamstring injury that forced him off the field in the international between England an France last week.

Only Giggs is definitely missing for United, because his hamstring pull has not recovered sufficiently. Keane and Scholes return from suspension, providing cause for optimism for Ferguson.

"I bet you couldn't name our side for the game last year," he said. "Now, I don't think we could be playing Arsenal at a better time.

"We are playing with confidence, the team spirit is great and we are looking forward to it."

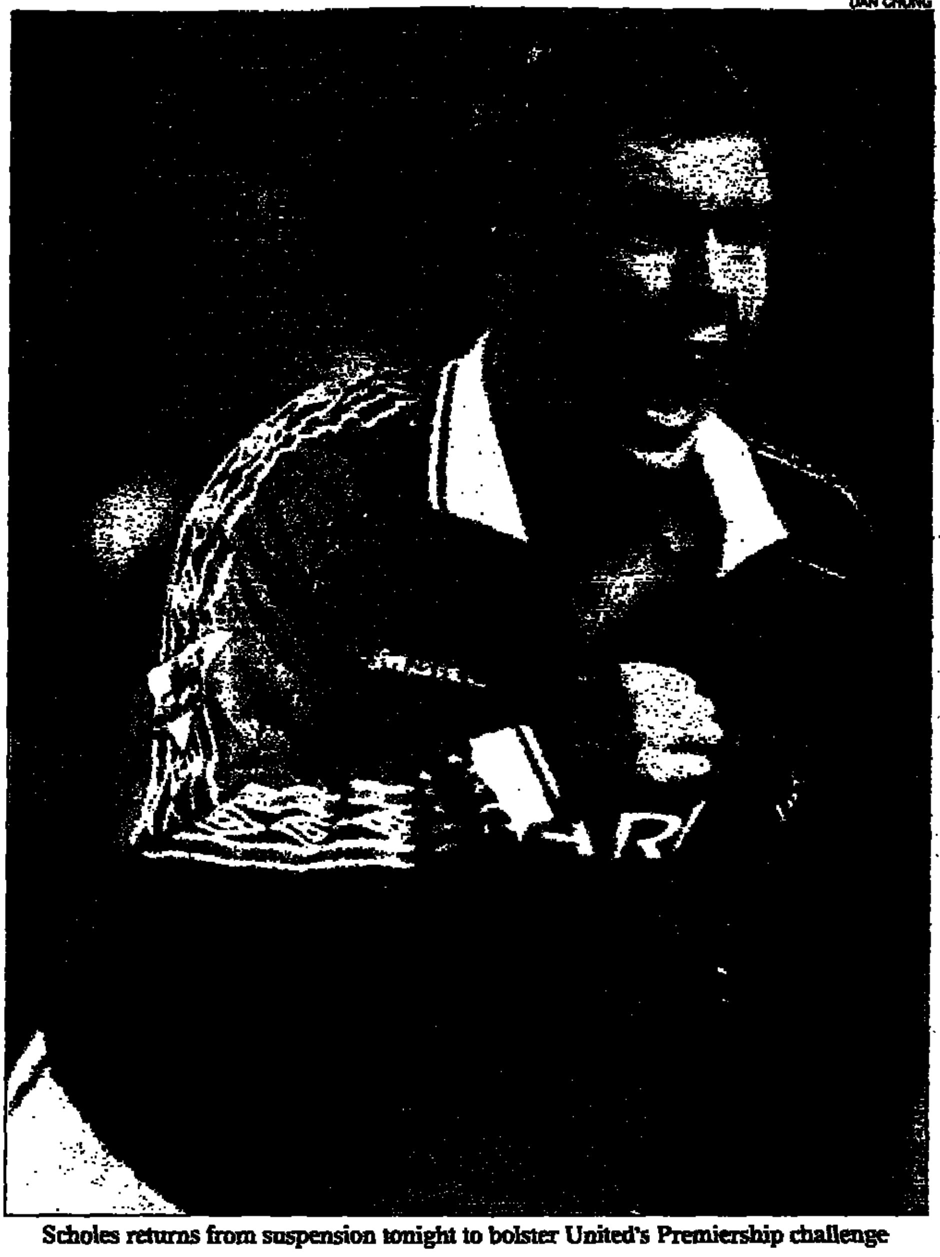
Even their poor record against Arsenal in the past 18 months is not intimidating them. Ferguson said: "We know we've lost the last four to them and we are not burying our head in the sand over the bad run. But we had the upper hand before that, so these fluctuations will always happen."

The rider to all this is that, for once, other clubs such as Chelsea and Aston Villa would claim to have a proper chance of breaking the duopoly. However, there remains the feeling that United and Arsenal will prevail again to fight it out for the Premiership title. A draw tonight, therefore, would not be a surprising result. Wenger said: "We have fought like crazy to get back into the title race and we are not going to throw it away now."

United yesterday recruited Bojan Djordic, a 17-year-old midfield player, from the Swedish club, Brommapojkarna. He has signed on a four-year contract and will arrive at Old Trafford in the summer. "He is the best young player in Sweden," Ferguson said.

MANCHESTER UNITED (possible 4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Neville, H Berg, J Stam, P Neville — D Beckham, P Scholes, R Keane, J Blomqvist — A Cole, D Yorke.

ARSENAL (possible 4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, S Bould, T Adams, N Winterburn — R Parlour, P Vieira, R Garde, M Overmars — N Anelka, N Kanu


Scholes returns from suspension tonight to bolster United's Premiership challenge

Everton offer Weir a fresh challenge

By Stephen Wood and Russell Kempson

EVERTON yesterday won the race for the signature of David Weir by offering Heart of Midlothian, the Scottish Premier League club, a nominal sum for the Scotland international defender. Weir was out of contract at Tynecastle at the end of the season, so Everton paid Hearts around £200,000 for him.

Weir is expected to be on the substitutes' bench for the FA Carling Premiership match against Middlesbrough at Goodison Park tonight. Walter Smith, the Everton manager, said: "I tried to sign David when he was at Falkirk and I was manager of Rangers."

For Weir, the move offers a new challenge after five years playing in Scotland. "Everton are struggling, but they are still a massive club," he said.

Aston Villa attempt to regain their winning thread when they take on Leeds United at Villa Park, but may have to make do without Dion Dublin in the near future. The England forward needs a hernia operation that will keep him out of action for six weeks.

Dublin has been troubled by a groin injury for the past month and was hoping to defy the pain and keep playing until the end of the season, but John Gregory, the Villa manager, said yesterday that he was now resigned to Dublin undergoing surgery soon. "There's no question he is struggling. He is not doing himself justice and there are times when he is in severe pain," Gregory said.

Chelsea meet Blackburn Rovers at Stamford Bridge without Dennis Wise, their captain, who begins a four-match suspension. He was sent off for the fourth time this season in the 4-2 win against Oxford United in an FA Cup fourth-round replay two weeks ago.

Reid believes his men can dispel doubts

George Caulkin on a high-flying club that still has hurdles to clear

SUNDERLAND have a problem. Their gleaming new stadium boasts regular attendances of around 40,000, they lead their division by an eight-point margin and to most rival managers, their prospective promotion is accepted as fact. At first glance, there does not appear to be too much wrong, but a couple of snags have been hit: perception and expectation.

Having spent the majority of the past two years at full throttle — relegation from the FA Carling Premiership, a move from Roker Park, defeat in the Nationwide League first division play-off final and another promotion tilt this time — minds on Wearside have begun to wander. It is now not enough to derive quiet satisfaction from each new league table: every result must be pondered and dissected for its wider significance. When even their manager, Peter Reid, talks of "when we go up," it is an understandable obsession, but three recent results have caused alarm.

In the FA Cup they were toppled by Blackburn Rovers, despite the luxury of playing against ten men for a third of the match. They knocked Everton out of the Worthington Cup, but only on penalties, to reach the last four of the competition, but then suffered a 2-1 defeat to Leicester City in the home leg of their semi-final three weeks ago.

The inference is clear. By far the most accomplished side in the Nationwide League, yet struggling against those of a higher strata, Sunderland are already suffering from unflattering comparisons. The age-old question of why Reid has not further bolstered a position of strength by signing fresh talent is once more being raised. He does not like it one bit. "I think we've handled the Premiership clubs very well," he said yesterday. "At present, I'm not too concerned, but when we go up we'll need to improve."

With a handful of his more influential players now fully recovered from injury, Reid believes the semi-final second leg at Filbert Street tonight will showcase a different Sunderland from the insipid team that conceded two goals to Tony Cottee at the Stadium of Light.

Reid's prediction may well be dependent on the Sunderland midfield, which struggled to contain Neil Lennon and, particularly, Muzzy Izzet in the first encounter. Much also hangs on Niall Quinn, who with 15 goals to his credit this season, is "playing his best ever," according to Reid. "I firmly believe we would have stayed up two years ago if he had been fit," he said. Recalling memories like that only serves to produce more tremors.


Reid: content

LEICESTER CITY (possible; 3-5-2): K Keller — M Elliott, S Walsh, G Taggart — F Sinclair, M Izzet, N Lennon, R Ullathorne, S Guppy — E Heskey, A Cottee. SUNDERLAND (probable; 4-4-2): T Sorensen — C Makin, A Melville, P Butler, M Gray — N Summerbee, L Clark, K Ball, A Johnston — N Quinn, K Phillips. Referee: D Elleray.

FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ JAMIE POLLOCK, the Manchester City midfield player, has been stripped of the club captaincy after being sent off for the third time this season in the 0-0 draw against Bournemouth on Saturday. Pollock, who faces a three-match suspension, has also been dismissed in games against Notts County and Derby County.

"It's not a knee-jerk reaction and it's not been done out of spite," Joe Royle, the City manager, said yesterday. "He's had three sendings-off, two of them dissent related, and this might take Jamie away from these situations. There will be no reason for him to talk to referees any more."

■ BRIGHTON, the Nationwide League third division club, are asking for £2.8 million in compensation from Aston Villa for Michael Standing, their former midfield player. Standing, 17, joined Villa last year and was a substitute during Villa's 3-1 defeat against Blackburn Rovers earlier this month. The fee will be decided by a tribunal, which earlier this season ruled that Villa should pay Brighton £1 million in instalments for Gareth Barry, who has graduated into the Villa first team and England Under-21 sides since leaving the South Coast club.

■ SOUTHAMPTON have signed Marian Pahars, the Latvia striker, for a fee of £800,000. Pahars, 22, scored at an average of almost one goal in every two games for Skonto Riga, the Latvian champions. "A friend recommended him." David Jones, the Southampton manager, said. "He's rated as highly as Michael Owen in his home country." Southampton will have to wait for a work permit before they can play him.

Liverpool appeal against dismissal

By Our Sports Staff

LIVERPOOL have contacted the Football Association to ask for the red card that Jamie Carragher received against Charlton Athletic on Saturday to be reconsidered. Carragher was sent off by Mike Reed, the Birmingham referee, after a clash with Martin Pringle, the Charlton striker, during Charlton's 1-0 victory at The Valley.

Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, has been highly critical of Reed's handling of the game, and studied the match video before deciding to lodge an official appeal. A club spokesman said: "After looking at the video, we feel that the red card was unwarranted and we have officially appealed against the decision."

Carragher was adjudged by Reed to have hit Pringle with his arm, but Liverpool claim it was unintentional. Reed has said he would be prepared to look at the match video if asked to do so by the FA.

On the transfer front, there are reports from Portugal that Benfica are interested in Brad Friedel, the Liverpool No 2 goalkeeper. The American has lost his place to David James this season, and Graeme Souness, the former Liverpool manager who is now in charge of the Lisbon club, is believed to have had talks with the player's representatives.

Manchester United supporters have voted Eric Cantona the best player in the club's history. A readers' ballot organised by United's official magazine puts Cantona in top spot ahead of George Best, Sir Bobby Charlton and Duncan Edwards.

Ryan Giggs took third place and David Beckham, eighth, finished ahead of another star of the sixties, Denis Law.

Forgotten were Billy Meredith as well as Liam Whelan, Jackie Blanchflower and David Pegg, some of the Busby Babes. Justyn Barnes, the magazine editor, is not too surprised. "The average age of our readers is 22, and that is reflected in the high placing of modern players," he said.

Top 10: 1, Eric Cantona, 2, George Best, 3, Ryan Giggs, 4, Sir Bobby Charlton, 5, Bryan Robson, 6, Duncan Edwards, 7, Peter Schmeichel, 8, David Beckham, 9, Mark Hughes, 10, Denis Law.

Jones in line for Cup Final

By Russell Kempson

PETER JONES, the referee at the centre of the controversial FA Cup tie between Arsenal and Sheffield United on Saturday, is believed to be on the shortlist of candidates to take charge of the FA Cup Final at Wembley on May 22.

Jones had to rule on the second-half incident when Nwankwo Kanu and Marc Overmars, of Arsenal, took advantage of a throw-in that should have beren returned to a United player. Alan Kelly, the United goalkeeper, had kicked the ball into touch to allow Lee Morris, his colleague, to receive treatment for an injury. Kanu crossed the ball for Overmars to score the goal that gave Arsenal a 2-1 victory and Jones was powerless to disallow it. He told United players that although he was not happy about it, there was nothing in the rulebook to enable him to reverse his decision.

Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal manager, and Steve Bruce, his opposite number, later supported Jones's handling of the game. Wenger's offer to restage the fifth-round tie was swiftly sanctioned by the Football Association and Jones will be in charge for the rematch at Highbury on February 23.

Jones, 45, an account executive from Loughborough, Leicestershire, took charge of the Coca-Cola Cup final between Chelsea and Middlesbrough at Wembley last season. He joined the Football League referees' list in 1988, progressed to the FA Carling Premiership five years ago and took charge of his first European Cup match this season. He is widely respected for his firm manner of officiating and his role at Highbury should not jeopardise his chances of Wembley selection.

FOR THE RECORD

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New York 78 Detroit 69; Miami 95 New Jersey 72; Denver 106 Phoenix 115; Utah 120 Sacramento 112 (OT); Portland 99 Dallas 84; Golden State 101 Minnesota 99

CRICKET

One-day International
Zimbabwe A v England A

BULAWAYO (Zimbabwe A won toss): England A beat Zimbabwe A by 1 wicket

ZIMBABWE A

A C B Wishart c Read b Thomas	18
† T N Madondo c Windows b Thomas	18
*G J Whittall c Windows b Flintoff	23
D P Viljoen c Solanki b Maddy	73
S v Carlisle c & b Maddy	80
C N Evans b Flintoff	30
A M Blignaut run out	0
A J MacKay c Vaughan b Flintoff	4
M D Abrams lbw b Maddy	1
G B Brent run out	7
D J Peacock not out	0
Extras (b 1, lb 4, w 3)	8
Total (49.4 overs)	262

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-40, 2-41, 3-89, 4-201, 5-225, 6-228, 7-252, 8-253, 9-261

BOWLING: Franks 8-0-45-0; Thomas 8-0-43-2; Maddy 9-0-54-3; Flintoff 8.4-1-30-3; Cosker 10-0-51-0; Swann 6-0-34-0

ENGLAND A

D L Maddy c Whittall b Blignaut	0
M B Loye c Evans b MacKay	24
A Flintoff st Madondo b Peacock	57
*M P Vaughan lbw b Whittall	5
M G N Windows run out	29
J S Solanki c Evans b Whittall	70
G P Swann run out	8
P J Franks run out	31
S D Thomas b Whittall	1
† C M W Read not out	14
D A Cosker not out	8
Extras (b 4, lb 6, w 3, nb 4)	17
Total (9 wkts, 49.3 overs)	263

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-0, 2-61, 3-71, 4-114, 5-136, 6-156, 7-222, 8-224, 9-238.

BOWLING: Blignaut 7-1-29-1; MacKay 10-0-37-1; Whittall 8.3-1-55-2; Brent 8-0-30-0; Evans 3-0-18-0; Peacock 8-0-48-1; Viljoen 5-0-36-0-14

Umpires: C Coventry and K Kanjee.

SUPERSPORT SERIES (final day of four): **Cape Town:** KwaZulu Natal 210 and 336-7 dec (M Bruyns 109, A Mall 72; A Dawson 4-68). Western Province 257 and 292-6 (J B Commins 70, B M McMillan 64, R McQueen 4-54). Western Province bt KwaZulu Natal by four wickets. **Johannesburg:** Gauteng 228 and 255-7 dec (K Rutherford 102, A M Bacher 79). Boland 319 and 204 (E Ferreira 63, h Jackson 69, C Ekstoen 7-52). Gauteng beat Boland by 58 runs. **Bloemfontein:** Eastern Province 281 and 240. Free State 237 and 205 (M Hayward 5-56). Eastern Province beat Free State by 79 runs. **East London:** Griqualand West 233 and 312-5 declared (L Bosman 62 not out, A Botha 52, W Dry 51 not out). Border 287 and 83-3. Match drawn.

FOOTBALL

Late results on Monday

NATIONWIDE CONFERENCE: Kidderminster 1 Kettering 1
TENNENT'S SCOTTISH CUP: Third-round replay: Ross County 2 Clydebank 3 (aet; 2-2 after 90 minutes)
DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Atherstone 2 Gresley 1; Worcester 6 Merthyr 1. League Cup: Second round: Racing Club Warwick 0 Sutton Coldfield Town 3
RYMAN LEAGUE: Premier division: St Albans 1 Boreham Wood 2
FA TROPHY: Fourth-round replay: Stevenage 0 Cheltenham 0 (aet; Cheltenham win 5-4 on pens)
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Chelsea 1 Luton 0; Fulham 0 Oxford Res 2; Northampton 0 Crystal Palace 1.
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Preston 0 Birmingham 2; Stoke 0 Nottm Forest 1. First division: Wolverhampton 2 Oldham 3. Second division: Newcastle 0 Rotherham 1
MINERVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS: Premier division: Ruislip Manor 0 Welwyn Garden 1
SCREWFIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier Division: Keynsham 1 Westbury 2

HOCKEY

ENGLAND MEN'S SQUAD (to tour Argentina in March): J Lewis (Cannock), S Triggs (Canterbury), W Waugh (Southgate, capt), T Bertram (Bournville), B Barnes (Reading), J Halls (Cannock), B Garrard (Teddington), M Johnson (Cannock), G Wallis (Teddington), D Woods (Southgate), R Garcia (Harvestehuder, Germany), B Sharpe (Cannock), M Pearn (Reading), D Hall (Guildford), G Cover (Havant), C Giles (Southgate).

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): NY Islanders 3 Tampa Bay 3 (OT); St Louis 8 Vancouver 1; Buffalo 3 Carolina 2; Florida 2 San Jose 2 (OT); New Jersey 3 Toronto 3 (OT); Ottawa 6 Chicago 2; Pittsburgh 7 Washington 3; Los Angeles 1 Anaheim 3; Nashville 4 NY Rangers 7; Dallas 4 Edmonton 1

RACKETS

QUEEN'S CLUB: Lacoste British Open singles championship: Quarter-finals: N Smith bt J Prenn 6-15, 15-12, 15-3, 15-10. A Robinson bt H Foster 15-3, 15-8, 15-10. G Barker bt T Sawrey-Cookson 7-15, 15-10, 1-15, 17-14, 15-7. W Boone bt D Makey 15-5, 15-14, 15-11. Semi-finals: Smith bt Robinson 15-10, 15-12, 15-8, 15-5. Boone bt Barker 7-15, 15-2, 15-4, 7-15, 15-6, 6-15, 15-9. Final: Smith bt Boone 12-15, 18-14, 15-6, 15-10, 10-15, 4-15, 15-6

RUGBY LEAGUE

SILK CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Fourth round: Oldham 18 Dewsbury 10

SCHOOLS SPORT

NORTHERN COUNTIES: Semi-final (Under-19): Cheshire 2 Durham 3
LONDON CUP (Under-15): Buckinghamshire 0 Sussex 1

SHOOTING

ALDERSLEY: British Air Rifle championships: Men's Open: 1, R Law (Alloa) 682.4; 2, C Hector (Bedford) 682.2; 3, D Rattray (Glenrothes) 679.9. Women's Open: 1, L Minett (Fareham) 491.1; 2, V Eaton (Chesterfield) 490.2; 3, S McIntosh (Edinburgh Univ Alumni) 482.7. Junior Women's Open: 1, R Spicer (Birmingham) 489; 2, S Kalinowska (Lambourne) 482.6; 3, C Griffin (Hunworth) 477.5. Junior Men's Open: 1, B Austen [illegible]

SNOOKER

ABERDEEN: [illegible]

SWIMMING

MALMO: [illegible]

1, S Muhammad (US) 23.81; 2, D Carlsson (Swe) 24.30; 3, J Hard (Fin) 24.39. 200m: 1, J Hickman (GB) 1:55.07; 2, V Hanslo (Fin) 1:59.25; 3, P Monteiro (Br) 1:59.52. Other British placing: 7, D Cox 2:06.53. Medley: 100m: 1, J Sievinen (Fin) 54.83; 2, C Keller (Ger) 55.59; 3, S Tucker (US) 55.62. British placing: 4, Hickman 55.82. 400m: 1, T Wilkens (US) 4:14.88; 2, C Keller (Ger) 4:17.97; 3, J Sievinen (Fin) 4:22.08. British placings: 5, B Lafferty 4:23.39; 6, S Mills (GB) 4:26.43. Women: Freestyle: 50m: 1, K Meissner (Ger) 25.17; 2, S Hosack (US) [illegible]

[illegible] 1:48.41; 3, C Fydler (Aus) 48.54. 400m: 1, J Hoffman (Ger) 3:45.51; 2, M Rosolino (It) 3:48.52; 3, J Carstensen (Den) 3:50.02. British placing: 7, E Sinclair 3:55.00. Backstroke: 100m: 1, S Theloke (Ger) 52.85; 2, M Guillermo (Sp) 54.53; 3, A Ruckwood (GB) 55.30. Other British placing: 7, S Mills 58.54. Breaststroke: 50m: 1, F Deburghgraeve (Bel) 27.84; 2, P Isaksson (Swe) 27.91; 3, Zhu Yi (China) 28.10. 200m: 1, Zhu Yi (China) 2:11.80; 2, T Wilkens (US) 2:12.01; 3, R Mitchell (Aus) 2:12.47. Butterfly: 50m: [illegible]

TENNIS

[illegible] Ruud (Nor) bt J Alonso (Sp) 6-2, 6-4; L Tieleman (It) bt M Rodriguez (Arg) 7-6, 6-2; R Reneberg (US) bt G Blanco (Sp) 7-6, 6-3; A Calatrava (Sp) bt M Joyce (US) 5-7, 7-6, 6-4; J Stark (US) bt B Steven (NZ) 6-2, 6-3; M Hill (Aus) bt J A Viloca (Spain) 7-6, 4-6, 7-5; J Novak (Cze) bt S Lareau (Can) 7-6, 6-7, 6-3.

ROTTERDAM: Indoor tournament: First round: E Kempes (Holl) bt J Krostak (Slovakia) 6-4, 7-6; R Federer (Switz) bt G Raoux (Fr) 6-7, 7-5, 7-6; H Arazi (Mar) bt G Etlis (Arg) 7-6, 7-5; B Ulihrach (Cze) bt G Ivanisevic (Croatia) 6-7, 7-6, 7-5; C Pioline (Fr) bt P Haarhuis (Holl) 3-6, 7-6, 7-6; K Kucera (Slovakia) bt B Black (Zim) 6-1, 6-1; W Ferreira (SA) bt T Enqvist (Swe) 7-6, 6-3; F Santoro (Fr) bt J Siemerink (Holl) 7-6, 6-3; P Korda (Cze) bt M Gustafsson (Swe) 6-4, 6-2.

HANOVER, Germany: Faber Grand Prix: B Rittner (Ger) bt M Serna (Sp) 6-4, 5-7, 6-4; A-G Sidot (Fr) bt S Appelmans (Bel) 6-3, 6-4; A Huber (Ger) bt S Plischke (Austria) 7-5, 7-6; M Oremans (Holl) bt E Loit (Fr) 6-0, 6-0; E Likhovtseva (Russ) bt H Nagyova (Slovakia) 6-2, 4-2, ret; V Ruano-Pascual (Sp) bt A Fusai (Fr) 6-3, 6-2; S Farina (It) bt K Habsudova (Slovakia) 6-3, 6-1.

REDBRIDGE: Women's tournament: First round: E Gagliardi (Switz) bt J Kostanic (Cro) 7-6, 7-6; A Tordoff (GB) bt L Woodroffe (GB) 7-5, 6-3; S De Beer (SA) bt P Hermida (Sp) 6-2, 6-4; T Poutchek (Bel) bt S Gorgos (Fr) 7-6, 6-3; J Pullin (GB) bt A Serra-Zanetti (It) 6-0, 6-4; S Star (Tun) bt J Choudhury (GB) 7-5, 7-5; M Sucha (Slovakia) bt M Frochlich (Ger) 6-0, 6-4; L Nemeckova (Cze) bt S Krivencheva (Bul) 7-6, 6-3; K Cross (GB) bt G Di Natale (It) 6-2, 6-3; L Ahl (GB) bt R Andres (Spa) 6-0, 6-4; L Latimer (GB) bt N Koves (Hun) 6-2, 6-4; J Ward (GB) bt P Wartusch (Austria) 7-5, 6-1.

Kilmarnock go into Celtic den

By Phil Gordon

CELTIC PARK may have been eclipsed by the Colosseum in terms of numbers, but tonight the ethos of ancient Rome will be transferred to the East End of Glasgow.

Only one of the two remaining challengers to Rangers in the Scottish Premier League will be left standing after Celtic and Kilmarnock battle for the right to continue the pursuit, however vain, of the leaders. Neither team can afford to lose, given the margin of deficit, and even a draw will produce self-inflicted wounds.

More than 1.1 million spectators have passed through Celtic Park's portals this season, more than any FA Carling Premiership club, yet Bobby Williamson, the Kilmarnock manager, is undaunted by the prospect.

"We have probably played some of our best football against Celtic this season," he said, pointing to a 1-1 draw on a visit to Glasgow in September and a win at Rugby Park as evidence.

However, Williamson is aware that Kilmarnock need an infusion of self-belief after the slump in form since the Scottish Premier League's winter break, which has seen his team slide from just four points behind Rangers to the present gap of 12, with tonight's game in hand.

A win would trim the margin to nine, and Williamson added: "The gap is big enough as it is, and both Celtic and ourselves want to close it. My players realise what is at stake.

"We have slipped recently, but I feel we are capable of doing something at Celtic. Some people have written us off, but I would never have the label of 'quitter' stuck on me."

Josef Venglos, the Celtic coach, is likely to choose the same team which defeated Dunfermline 4-0 in the Scottish Cup last Saturday, because of fitness doubts over Alan Stubbs and Tom Boyd, the central defenders.

However, one player who will be watching, rather than playing, is Mark Viduka. The Australia forward had his first taste of action yesterday since his messy transfer from Croatia Zagreb, and scored in a 4-2 win over Motherwell in an under-21 match. Several hundred spectators braved the sleet and rain to capture a glimpse of Viduka, who said later: "It was good to get out on the pitch after two months, but I need to get a few more games under my belt."


Williamson: optimistic

RUGBY UNION

Gloucester finally lose patience with Hill regime

By Mark Souster

RICHARD HILL'S sudden departure from Gloucester after 3½ years in charge is a sign of the times — a modern rugby parable. As in football, failure cannot be tolerated and high-profile, high-salary appointments must be seen to work. In that regard, Hill, who leaves Kingsholm with the club languishing in tenth place in the Allied Dunbar Premiership, must have known that he was living on borrowed time.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of such decisions, which some regard as an unwelcome facet of professionalism, Hill, 37, was struggling to make an impact and his dismissal had been building for some time. It was increasingly obvious that he was losing touch with the players — the dispute with David Sims, the captain, his apparent unwillingness to listen to players such as Philippe Saint Andre, were cases in point.

He alienated supporters with some of his transfer dealings, such as the sale of Phil Greening, and his explanations for defeats were increasingly seen as excuses. At some stage Hill had to take responsibility for the team's plight. He did not. "Richard was the guy in charge. He got the budget he asked for, he got all the players that he wanted to buy in, and if his plans do not work he is the one who has to answer for them. Sometimes hard decisions have to be taken." Tom Walkinshaw, the Gloucester owner, said yesterday. "You cannot sit back with a dozen internationals in your squad and be happy with them in the bottom of the league. The situation means that a change is necessary to enable the club to achieve its ambitions."

The unanimous decision for that change had been taken at a board meeting on Thursday night, but Hill was not informed until 5pm on Monday by Walkinshaw. The relationship between the two appeared, at best, cordial. Hill, who leaves his post as director of rugby with his contract paid up until 2001, alienated his employer last autumn by suggesting that England players should be contracted to the Rugby Football Union rather than to the clubs.

When your employer is a multimillionaire in dispute with Twickenham, that was not the shrewdest move. That was part of Hill's problem; he was too honest for his own good. Perhaps his loyalties do lie with country rather than club. As things stand, his position as England A coach remains unaffected.

The former England scrum half arrived at Gloucester from Bath, where he continued to live, in October 1995. In his first two seasons at Kingsholm, Hill ensured that Gloucester escaped relegation and gave the club a cosmetic makeover, bringing in overseas talent such as Saint Andre, who now assumes the coaching role until the end of the season alongside John Brain, the forwards coach. But he achieved little of substance apart from twice reaching the semi-final of the cup. He believed that solid foundations were being put in place, however, and he had no inkling of his impending fate.

"It has been a fair old shock," he said yesterday. "Gloucester's position in the league doesn't look very good, so I have no leg to stand on there. I shall have to spend the next couple of days giving it a lot of thought. I have no plans in place because I had not intended to lose my job overnight."

□ David Campbell, who resigned as a director of Newcastle Falcons last week, has launched a formal bid to buy Sir John Hall's 76 per cent shareholding in the club on behalf of a consortium of Tyneside businessmen. The Newcastle Gosforth Shareholders Association, which controls the other 24 per cent, is also believed to be preparing a deal to buy Sir John's shareholding.

Hill: dismissed

Ireland welcome back Ward for Wembley

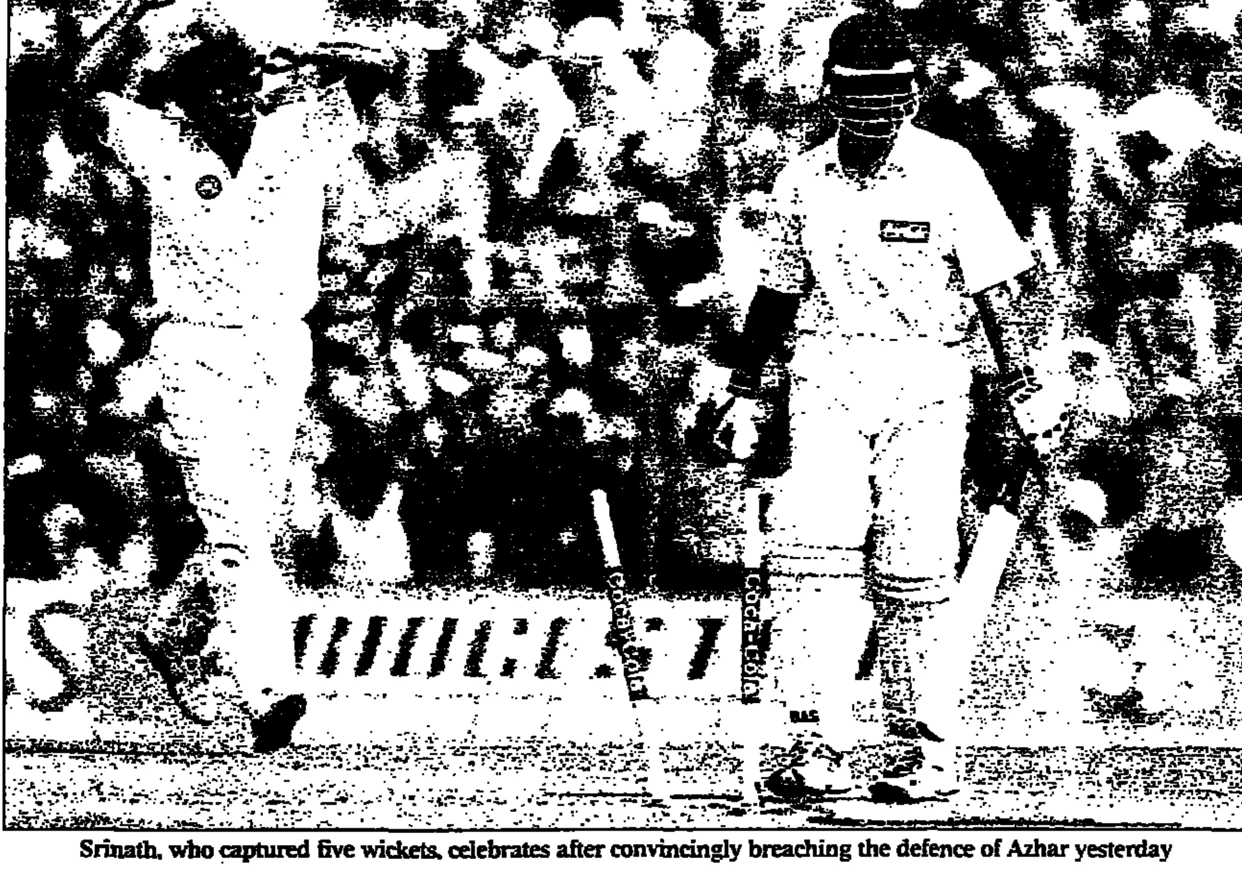
By David Hands, rugby correspondent

IRELAND, disappointed not to have begun their Five Nations Championship with victory over France, make one change to the XV for the match against Wales at Wembley on Saturday. Andy Ward, the flanker forced to withdraw against France with a leg injury, returns for what will be Ireland's first — and, presumably, only — visit to Wembley. There was never any doubt that David Humphreys would retain the No 10 jersey, despite missing the penalty that would have given Ireland victory over France.

Ward replaces Victor Costello in the back row, with Eric Miller taking the more familiar No 8 position. Costello has recovered from a rib injury to take a place among the replacements. Rob Henderson, the Wasps centre, must also be content with a place on the bench.

Jonathan Humphreys, the Wales hooker, is unlikely to play again in the Five Nations this season because he requires a back operation. He will be replaced in the Wales game by Barry Williams, of Richmond.

IRELAND: **C O'Shea** (London Irish), **J Bishop** (London Irish), **K Maggs** (Bath), **J Bell** (Dungannon), **G Dempsey** (Terenure College); **D Humphreys** (Dungannon), **C McGuinness** (St Mary's College), **P Clohessy** (Young Munster), **K Wood** (Harlequins), **P Wallace** (Saracens), **P Johns** (Saracens, captain), **J Davidson** (Castres), **D O'Cuinneagain** (Sale), **A Ward** (Ballynahinch), **E Miller** (Terenure College). *Replacements:* **R Henderson** (Wasps), **E Elwood** (Galwegians), **C Scally** (UCD), **V Costello** (St Mary's College), **M Galwey** (Shannon), **J Fitzpatrick** (Dungannon), **R Nesdale** (Newcastle)



Srinath, who captured five wickets, celebrates after convincingly breaching the defence of Azhar yesterday

Wasim surrenders initiative

From Richard Hobson in Calcutta

CALCUTTA (first day of five; Pakistan won toss): India, with nine first-innings wickets in hand, are 159 runs behind Pakistan

WATCHING Pakistan subside yesterday morning recalled the great farce of English cricket known as the NatWest Trophy final. The attendance was 70,000 greater, the temperature 20C warmer and the air a great deal unhealthier, but in one significant respect Eden Gardens bore a distinct resemblance to those September mornings at Lord's as lavish seam and swing made batting an unenviable business.

Win the toss at St John's Wood, insert the opposition and invariably victory follows. Here, Wasim Akram took the misguided decision to bat after calling correctly. Within the first hour Pakistan had slipped to 26 for six, and despite a recovery led by Moin Khan, who made 70, the total of 185 fell way below the captain's expectations.

India began the Asian Test Championship just as emphatically as they had ended the recent two-match Test series against their neighbours. This time, though, Anil Kumble, the new national hero after taking ten wickets in the second innings at Delhi, played the equivalent of third footman.

The most significant damage was inflicted by Javagal Srinath, returning figures of five for 46, and Venkatesh Prasad before Kumble had sent down a ball in anger. On a pitch with a hint of green, and through a smog-induced haze at the 9.30am start, both Srinath and Prasad maintained a full length in the corridor around off stump, sowing uncertainty in the minds of batsmen by moving the ball both ways.

Pakistan, equally, contributed towards their decline with poor footwork and injudicious shot selection. The inexperience of a top order including three players in the spring of their Test careers swiftly became apparent. Shahid Afridi flattered to deceive by striking two boundaries in Srinath's first over. When the pair next crossed swords, Shahid was squared by a ball slanted in and tickled a regulation catch to Mongia, the wicketkeeper, to herald a collapse of six wickets for 11 runs.

In successive overs, Prasad beat a flimsy stroke by Saeed and Ijaz was leg-before as he played Srinath from the crease. Wajahatullah, making his debut, lasted just nine balls and then Srinath accounted for Yousuf, driving away from his feet, and Azhar, bowled pushing down the wrong line, in his fifth over. If the perennially unlucky Inzamam had become the butt of humour after hitting his head while boarding the team bus on Sunday evening, causing his absence here, then any laughter in the dressing-room of the touring team must by now have died down.

The situation called for wise heads and sound technique. Salim Malik and Moin responded by grafting for 47 overs for 84 runs. It was a fascinating period of play. Salim scored 19 in his first three hours at the crease but broadened his range before tea, only to nick the second ball from Srinath after the resumption. Moin had driven Kumble for six and added five fours in a half-century compiled in 216 minutes.

With Wasim immediately seeking to attack, the eighth-wicket pair prospered. However, Sachin Tendulkar is becoming an uncanny partnership-breaker. Moin cut him straight to slip, and when Wasim drove high to long-off the innings was all but over. Under the scoring system for this triangular competition, India have four bonus points to Pakistan's one.

It will not have given Wasim any consolation to hear afterwards that Mohammad Azharuddin, the India captain, would have bowled had he won the toss.

Despite the loss of Laxman, bowled by Shoaib Akhtar, Azharuddin has set his side a target of 400. There is a certain amount of responsibility on the shoulders of young Shoaib, an enthusiastic replacement for Waqar Younis. His pace can be immense, but craft is likely to count for as much this morning.

SCOREBOARD FROM CALCUTTA

PAKISTAN: First Innings

Saeed Anwar b Prasad	0
Shahid Afridi c Mongia b Srinath	8
Ijaz Ahmed lbw b Srinath	1
Wajahatullah Wasti c Mongia b Prasad	6
Yousuf Youhana c Azharuddin b Srinath	2
Salim Malik c Mongia b Srinath	32
Azhar Mahmood b Srinath	0
† Moin Khan c Laxman b Tendulkar	70
*Wasim Akram c sub b Harbhajan Singh	38
Shoaib Akhtar lbw b Kumble	4
Saqlain Mushtaq not out	4
Extras (lb 11, w 1, nb 8)	20
Total	**185**

FALL OF WICKETS 1-15, 2-17, 3-19, 4-23, 5-26, 6-26, 7-110, 8-173, 9-177

BOWLING Srinath 19-4-46-5; Prasad 18-6-27-2; Kumble 19.2-8-48-1; Singh 12-2-36-1; Ganguly 5-2-9-0; Tendulkar 3-1-8-1

INDIA: First Innings

S Ramesh not out	17
V V S Laxman b Shoaib Akhtar	5
A Kumble not out	0
Extras (nb 4)	4
Total (1 wicket)	**26**

FALL OF WICKET 1-26

S R Tendulkar, *M Azharuddin, S C Ganguly, † N R Mongia, Harbhajan Singh, R Dravid, J Srinath and B K V Prasad to bat

BOWLING Wasim Akram 5-1-9-0; Shoaib Akhtar 5-1-17-1

Umpires S A Bucknor (West Indies) and D L Orchard (South Africa)

Solanki guides England A to narrow victory

From Thrasy Petropoulos in Bulawayo

BULAWAYO (Zimbabwe A won toss): England A beat Zimbabwe A by one wicket

VIKRAM SOLANKI engineered a remarkable victory for England A in the first limited-overs match against Zimbabwe A. Chasing a target of 263, England appeared to have batted themselves out of contention, requiring 85 from the last ten overs with four wickets in hand, but Solanki struck an elegant 70 from 72 balls and the tail scrambled over the finishing line with three balls and one wicket to spare.

Controversy had appeared to give way to disappointment when Paul Franks, who, with Solanki, had led the initial fightback with a partnership of 66 in nine overs, was wrongly adjudged to have been run out, having charged at a no-ball from Guy Whittall.

Though well out of his ground, Franks was making no attempt at a run when the wicketkeeper, Trevor Madondo, threw down the stumps and should, therefore, not have been dismissed.

With 41 runs still required from 4.5 overs it was a decision that, when Darren Thomas was bowled by Whittall two balls later, appeared to have cost England any chance of victory. Solanki took his cue, however, to strike the fifth and sixth balls of the over straight for six and four.

An attempt to repeat the stroke in the next over saw Solanki caught off Dirk Viljoe's left-arm spin at long-off, leaving England's last pair, Chris Read and Dean Cosker, needing 25 runs from 19 balls. Read and Cosker both scored boundaries in Viljoen's next over, which meant that England A needed just four runs from the final over, bowled by Whittall.

Solanki, 22, has scarcely wasted an opportunity on this tour, but until his innings England looked to be heading for their first defeat, with only Andrew Flintoff having any cause for celebration.

Flintoff was by some distance England's best bowler, taking three wickets for 30 runs. Stuart Carlisle scored 80 from 67 balls for Zimbabwe A, including 18 in one over from Darren Maddy.

Scoreboard, page 40

World Cup final could move to Twickenham

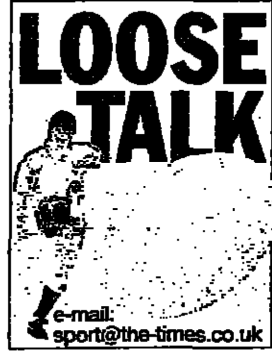
Could Twickenham host the World Cup final? Every possibility if Cardiff's new Millennium Stadium is not ready, according to Leo Williams, the Rugby World Cup (RWC) chairman. The genial Australian is on a fact-finding visit to Wales this week for an update on the stadium, which is behind schedule but which the Welsh Rugby Union insists will be open on time for the international against South Africa on June 26. Williams said the Twickenham contingency plan would mean switching the semi-finals to Murrayfield and Lansdowne Road, but that would not prove a problem. Wembley is another option, but Williams believes a rugby venue is necessary for the occasion.

The odds are that the Cardiff stadium, which needs to host three live events to gain a safety certificate, will be ready, even if it means postponing the Springboks game and including the opening match of the World Cup as part of the certification process. The final decision will be made before the team managers' meeting on May 14.

To dye for

A flustered Lloyds TSB official rang Keith Wood last Monday believing that the Ireland hooker was going to appear on the *Nine O'Clock News* to talk about the dye controversy at Lansdowne Road.

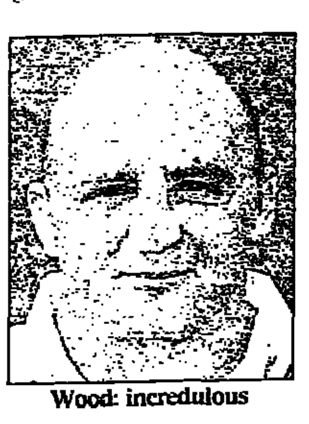
Wood was told that he need not worry, that there were no health hazards because the "dye was edible". An incredulous Wood said later: "Did they seriously think the Irish and French front rows spent the afternoon eating the bottom of the grass? I am not a cow that chews the cud."



Famous draw

The fact that Scotland have not beaten England at Twickenham since 1983 rekindles memories of a previous Scottish losing streak that ended in 1965 after 27 years. That was the game of Andy Hancock's immortal last-minute try that forced Scotland to settle for a draw. They were seconds away from a 3-0 win when the Northampton wing raced 90 yards, narrowly evading a tackle by Iain Laughland, the Scotland centre.

Hancock, now 60 and a town planning consultant in Lincolnshire, said this week: "Had I known that Laughland was as desperate as I was I would have tried to run round under the posts." Instead, Don Rutherford's conversion attempt went wide and the game ended 3-3.



Wood: incredulous

Cross dressing

The match programme of Buccaneers, the AIB League first division newcomers, sports a cover photograph of Brian Rigney, the club captain. Inside can be found a picture of another Ireland international — Roy Keane, in a Buccs jersey. Eammon Fagan, of Dubarry, the club's main sponsor, bumped into Keane last summer and the Manchester United star gladly posed for the photo — free of charge.

Heariot's?

We've had Rear of the Year competitions. Now *Scottish Rugby* is introducing Ear of the Year. The magazine is looking for those cracking cauliflowers that so distinguish rugby's forward brethren. Front-runner is Jock Bryce, of Heriot's, although Martin Johnson is also a live contender.

□ *And finally . . . Scotland have been accused of picking players under a flag of convenience, but the same charge could have been levelled at England 50 years ago in the Calcutta Cup match. Terry O'Connor, the doyen of rugby writers, has pointed out that in the England side that day were Barry Holmes, a full back born in Argentina, Clive van Ryneveld, from South Africa and Oxford University, Robert Kennedy, a Rhodesian wing, and Basil Travers, a Harlequin from Australia. Scotland were captained by Doug Keller, another Aussie, who had toured with the 1947-48 Wallabies and stayed on. England won 19-3, with Van Ryneveld scoring two tries.*

MARK SOUSTER

BOXING

Hamed gets new TV deal

By Srikumar Sen, boxing correspondent

NASEEM HAMED has signed a new multimillion-dollar deal with Home Box Office (HBO) for six contests. The American cable television company would not reveal figures, but said that the money was considerably more than the $12 million his last contract was worth. The sum is believed to include fees for worldwide rights, which will be negotiated for Hamed by HBO.

As Hamed has completed only two of the six contests in the last deal, the new agreement starts afresh from the bout against Paul Ingle, of Scarborough, in Manchester on April 10. All but one of the remaining five bouts will be staged in the United States.

The World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight champion's first real test is expected to come in the third contest, a pay-per-view match, which will be in one of the leading boxing centres in the US and will feature Marco Antonio Barerra, Arturo Gatti or Erik Morales.

A press conference called in London yesterday to announce Hamed's plans and to publicise his bout with Ingle was, for once, a toned-down affair. Hamed thanked his former trainer, Brendan Ingle, and Frank Warren, his former promoter, but said that it was time to move on. His new South American trainer has made him a much better boxer, he said.

"I've been in the same gym 17 years, doing the same stuff for 17 years," he said. "I haven't been learning. You are going to see a more compact, a more skilful and stronger puncher."

Paul Ingle was unimpressed by the talk of Hamed's wealth and put a stop to the preoccupation with ostentation when he said: "He can have his Lamborghinis and Ferraris. I've got a ferret and two whippets."

□ Wayne McCullough, of Ulster, will challenge Morales for his World Boxing Council super-bantamweight title on May 8. The Las Vegas contest with the Mexican will be McCullough's second consecutive attempt on the world title after losing his WBO featherweight title to Hamed.



Hamed will be richer still after signing a new contract with Home Box Office for six televised bouts

SWIMMING

Hickman unhappy to be out on his own

From Craig Lord in Malmo

THE resignation in the voices of the respective coaches of James Hickman and Claudia Poll, the world champions, here at the eighth round of the World Cup yesterday had everything to do with the inevitability of victory for one and defeat for the other.

Hickman's emphatic win in the 200 metres butterfly, in 1min 55.07sec, more than four seconds clear of those who wallowed in his wake, demanded no great forecasting skills on the part of Terry Denison, his coach in Leeds. The swimmer, 23, from Stockport, has not been beaten over the distance in a short-course pool since becoming world champion of the 25-metre pool, also here in Sweden, in the spring of 1997, and faced none of his key rivals yesterday.

Denison acknowledged that Hickman's presence in Malmö was always likely to be a lonely affair, given that "there are only four or five of his class in the world at the moment and none are here. It's a shame. James likes to race".

The deep sigh from Francisco Rivas, coach to Poll, had quite a different tone to it. The freestyle world champion was defeated for a third time over 800 metres by Chen Hua, 16, who, until late last year, was unheard of outside China. Yesterday, Chen recorded a time of 8min 27.16sec to defeat Poll, who could manage only 8:30.86.

"Chen Hua is the fourth Chinese to have come from nowhere, beat Claudia, then disappear," Rivas claimed. "Two of them disappeared because they tested positive for drugs."

SPORT IN BRIEF

■ **ROWING:** The Boat Race on Easter Saturday will be preceded by a new curtain-raiser on Good Friday. It was announced yesterday that the Thames World Sculling Challenge, usually staged in the autumn, will be held on the Friday afternoon on the flood tide and that 11 of the world's best scullers, five women and six men, intend to compete over the Boat Race course between Putney and Mortlake.

■ **HOCKEY:** Simon Triggs, the Canterbury goalkeeper, is one of three new players called up by Barry Dancer, the England coach, for the tour of Argentina next month. The others are Tom Bertram, of Bournville, and George Cover, who plays for Havant in the first division of the National League.

■ **TENNIS:** Goran Ivanisevic, the No 8 seed, from Croatia, was beaten 6-7, 7-6, 7-5 in the first round of the Rotterdam indoor tournament by Bohdan Ulirach, of the Czech Republic.

SNOW REPORTS

SKI CLUB

	Depth (cm) L	Depth (cm) U	Conditions Piste	Conditions Runs to Resort	Conditions Off/p	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
Andorra								
Soldeu	100	110	Good	Open	Crusty	Cloud	5	15/02
Austria								
Kitzbühel	85	183	Good	Open	Powder	Cloud	-1	16/02
Obergurgl	60	270	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-2	16/02
St Anton	120	420	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-7	16/02
Canada								
Lake Louise	143	173	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-6	14/02
France								
Alpe d'Huez	156	300	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	0	11/02
Avoriaz	130	230	Good	Hard	Varied	Snow	-3	16/02
Flaine	158	400	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-3	11/02
La Clusaz	120	240	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	2	11/02
La Tania	174	250	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-3	13/02
Les Arcs	175	280	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-8	10/02
Méribel	100	250	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-2	11/02
Tignes	136	270	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-17	16/02
Val Thorens	180	270	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-10	13/02
Val d'Isere	120	300	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-1	16/02
Italy								
Cervinia	80	160	Good	Open	Crusty	Fair	-6	11/02
Cortina	50	70	Fair	Open	Varied	Cloud	-12	14/02
Livigno	61	158	Good	Open	Varied	Sun	-2	09/02
Norway								
Geilo	60	80	Good	Open	Varied	Fair	-10	15/02
Switzerland								
Crans Montana	200	470	Good	Open	Varied	Fine	-2	11/02
Davos	125	205	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	16/02
Klosters	120	200	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-4	16/12
Murren	140	300	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-5	16/02
Saas Fee	80	325	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	-7	16/02
St Moritz	90	150	Good	Hard	Crusty	Cloud	0	09/02
Villars	100	220	Good	Open	Varied	Cloud	0	11/02
Wengen	110	160	Good	Open	Powder	Snow	-3	16/02
United States								
Aspen	110	138	Good	Open	Powder	Sun	-2	15/02
Deer Valley	225	240	Good	Open	Powder	Fine	-5	11/02

http://www.skiclub.co.uk L = lower slopes, U = upper slopes

Rescued French yachtswoman misses out on another prize

Autissier sails close to the wind

Edward Gorman on a racing career dogged by ill-luck and controversy

ISABELLE AUTISSIER, who was yesterday rescued in the Southern Ocean by Giovanni Soldini, her fellow Around Alone Race competitor, after her yacht capsized, is regarded as one of the best single-handed ocean-racing skippers in the world, despite the fact that most of the great prizes have eluded her.

Although a household name in France for ten years as her country's leading woman sailor, she has remained a private and modest person who has maintained a relatively low media profile. Yet among the racing elite on the Brittany coast where she was brought up, Autissier, 42, is revered as a talented and dedicated racer and a supreme mariner. Her career, however, has been dominated by failures.

The victories which on many occasions have appeared well within her grasp have all too often been snatched away as a result of little more than bad luck. She completed her first single-handed round-the-world race, the BOC Challenge, in 1990-91, despite a dismasting halfway through.

Four years later, in the next BOC, she ran away with the first leg, beating her nearest rival into Cape Town by five days. Then, on the second leg through the Southern Ocean to Sydney, her boat was rolled and dismasted and eventually sank, prompting an expensive rescue by the Australian Navy. In the Vendée Globe race two years ago, she was forced to retire when disputing the lead after her present yacht, *PRB*, hit an object and lost one of its rudders 600 miles southwest of Cape Town.

Now, on what is almost certainly her last attempt at achieving round-the-world glory, her campaign has again ended in failure as she raced towards Cape Horn, having set off on the stage from Auckland to Punte del Este as overall race leader. There have been high points, such as her top-three finish in the Mini-Transat single-handed transatlantic race, and the record time that she and a crew of three set from New York to San Francisco in 1994.

There have been controversies, too, such as the 1994 rescue and the row between Autissier and the Vendée Globe race director, Philippe Jeantot, over his allegation that she did not do all in her power to continue the search for Jerry Roufs, the missing skipper.

Autissier, who is single and lives in La Rochelle, was taught to sail when she was six by her grandfather. At 12 she was already dreaming about sailing alone around the world, but it was not until 1987 that she took up single-handed racing, believing that it would lead to "self-improvement".

Autissier has always seemed cheerfully impervious to the threat of the sea, despite having been through some terrible ordeals. Before starting the present race in Charleston in October, Autissier said: "I don't know why I have chosen this solo sailing job. Well, it's because I love the racing. I love sailing and sailing alone you are responsible for yourself. You have to push yourself — you have to be thoughtful." Asked about being female in a predominantly male sport, she added: "I am happy to be a woman, but I disconnect those two things — sailing and being a woman."

> ‘She is revered as a supreme mariner’

In recent months, Autissier has said that the Around Alone Race would be her last solo round-the-world attempt. Her next project may be the Volvo Ocean Race, the successor to the Whitbread, for fully crewed monohulls. During the last Whitbread race, she sailed on the all-women boat, *EF Education*, on the leg from Annapolis to La Rochelle. It was no coincidence that the women produced their best finish on that leg.


LINKS
WEBSITE:
www.aroundalone.com/


Autissier and her rescuer, Soldini, in Auckland before the third leg of the Around Alone

Time to steady the boat

By Edward Gorman

THE capsize of *PRB*, Isabelle Autissier's Open 60, in the Southern Ocean about 1,900 miles west of Cape Horn means that roughly one in four of the skippers who have set out in the past two single-handed round-the-world races have turned over. At least five boats have now capsized in the Southern Ocean in these two events. Though in two cases the boats involved were not the most modern 60-footers, these statistics are likely to lead to further calls for increased regulation of open-class boats in such races.

While Autissier was rescued by a fellow competitor, Giovanni Soldini, the situation can have much broader implications when national emergency and naval services are called upon to execute a rescue. In the past couple of years, race authorities and skippers themselves have worked to improve the safety of Open 60s, and particularly to prevent them from staying upside down after a capsize. However, it appears that despite the swing keel on *PRB*, Autissier's boat may have failed to right itself.

Critics argue that a rethink on the basic parameters of the boats to make them more seaworthy in the extreme conditions of the Southern Ocean is long overdue. The problem is that the governing body of the sport — the International Sailing Federation — does not recognise Open 60 round-the-world racing, so design restrictions are left to those organising races and the skippers.

Rescue drama 1

From a purely sporting perspective, a small shift in favour of safety at the expense of speed would make no difference to the competitive challenge, yet the risk of capsize or death might be significantly reduced.

This dilemma concerns Ellen MacArthur and Mark Turner, her project manager, as they review designs for her Open 60 for the next Vendée Globe race. Turner agreed yesterday that further thinking on seaworthiness could be needed, but he said that, in the absence of restrictions for the Vendée, there is little choice but to go for the extreme end of the design spectrum if your aim is to win.

Autissier's exit leaves only two of the six Class I yachts which left Charleston in October still in the Around Alone, with Soldini trying to catch Marc Thiercelin, of France.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket

Worthington Cup
Semi-final, second leg
*Leicester (2) v Sunderland (1) (7.45)

FA Carling Premiership
Aston Villa v Leeds (7.45)
Chelsea v Blackburn (7.45)
Everton v Middlesbrough (8.0)
Manchester Utd v Arsenal (8.0)
Newcastle v Coventry (7.45)

Auto Windscreens Shield
Northern Section
Quarter-final
Rochdale v Halifax (7.45)

Scottish Premier League
Celtic v Kilmarnock (7.45)

Scottish League
Second division
Partick v Stirling (7.45)

Third division
Dumbarton v Cowdenbeath

REPRESENTATIVE MATCH Dr Martens League v Hellenic League (at Paget Rangers FC).

DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Southern division: St Leonards v Ashford

RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Braintree v Leatherhead

FOOTBALL LEAGUE YOUTH ALLIANCE: North East Conference: Darlington v Scarborough (11.0)

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Bournemouth v Watford (2.0), Cambridge v Queens Park Rangers (2.0), Peterborough v Charlton (7.0), Wimbledon v Brentford; Gillingham v Arsenal (2.0)

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Burnley v Barnsley (7.15), Tranmere v Port Vale (7.15), West Bromwich v Bolton (7.0). **Second division:** Shrewsbury v Huddersfield (7.0), Stockport v Sheffield Utd (7.0), York v Wrexham (7.0), Notts County v Blackpool (2.0). **Third division:** Bury v Chesterfield (7.0), Darlington v Chester (2.0), Scunthorpe v Hartlepool (7.0), Wigan v Carlisle (2.0). **League Cup: Group five:** Oldham v Stoke (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Greater London Leopards v Chester Jets (at Brentwood, 7.30), Milton Keynes Lions v Edinburgh Rocks (7.30), Newcastle Eagles v Thames Valley Tigers (7.0). **Uni-ball Trophy: Semi-final, second leg:** Manchester Giants (81) v Sheffield Sharks (77) (7.30)

ICE HOCKEY: Sekonda Superleague: Sheffield Steelers v Ayr Scottish Eagles (7.30)

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 38

EXERCITOR
(c) In Roman Law, a marine agent. From the Latin for an agent, from exercere to act or perform.

DIMARIS
(a) The mnemonic term designating the third mood of the fourth figure of syllogisms.

EXSPUITION
(c) The action of spitting out from the mouth. From the Latin, by way of the French.

DELIBATE
(b) To take a little of, taste, sip. Also used figuratively. From the Latin delibare, to take a little of, taste.

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE

Solution: 1 ... Rxb5! 2 Nxb5 Bc4+ 3 Ke3 (3 Ke1 Nc2 mate) 3 ... Nf5+ 4 Ke4 Bd5+ 5 Kxe5 Nd3 checkmate

TELEVISION CHOICE

Meet the kitchen gods

Sophie Grigson's Herbs
BBC2, 7.30pm

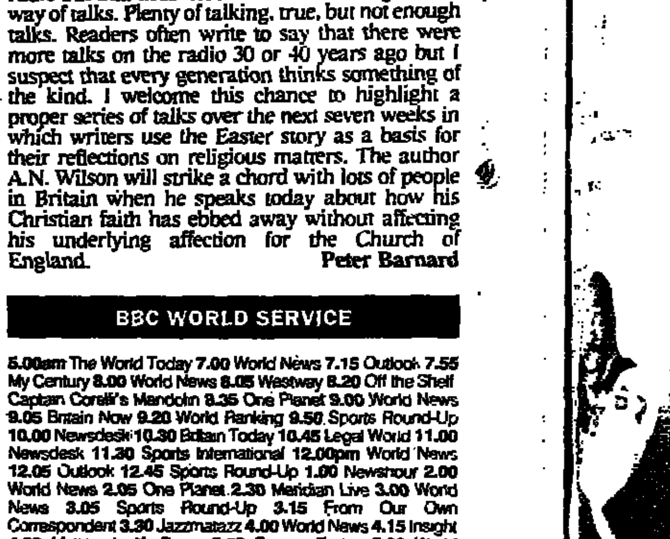
The hair has been dyed red but the earrings are as big as ever and the gimmick-free enthusiasm for matters culinary remains unquenched. If anything, Sophie Grigson's patter has become a little more florid since she was last on the box, describing herbs, the subject of her new series, as "inescapably sensuous and alluring" and "invigorating almost any dish with their unabashed vitality". And so to business, starting with basil, coriander and other "little kitchen gods" which come under the heading of warm and spicy. Among Grigson's recipes is one from Vietnam and another from Mexico, evidence of how far British tastes have moved from the old meat and two veg. There is a guest chef each week, starting with the ubiquitous and inevitable Antony Worral Thompson.

Looking Good
BBC2, 8.30pm

Real fashion for real women is the continued boast of this show, hosted by Lowri Turner and tonight it is starting its third series. But if real fashion implies defying the diktats of the catwalks, and real women means those who are not necessarily young and attractive with perfect figures, then you begin to wonder. The main item is about colour. Those who decree such things say that black is out this season and bright shades are in. The programme unquestioningly accepts this and persuades a woman who lives in black to think again. And she just happens to be thirtyish, pretty and enviably slim. More relevant to the brief is a look at the cheap and not always nasty cosmetics sold by supermarkets.

Blood on the Carpet
BBC2, 9.30pm

The last in this compulsively watchable series about business battles charts the rift within the Countryside Alliance after it had persuaded a quarter of a million people to demonstrate for the rural way of life and fox-hunting in particular. But even in this moment of triumph two factions were threatening to tear the alliance apart. The traditionalists were led by Lord Kimball of Eton and Cambridge, a former Conservative MP and a master of the hounds. Against him was ranged Eric Bettelheim, a city lawyer determined to carry on the fight with modern business methods. He recruited Edward Duke, a self-made Yorkshire entrepreneur, as chief executive of the alliance. But Duke soon fell out with Janet George, his formidable press officer.


Taking a *Walk On the Wild Side*: David Bowie as Ziggy Stardust (ITV, 10.40pm)

Walk on the Wildside
ITV, 10.40pm

It began with Elvis putting on eyeliner and mascara and reached its apogee last year when the transsexual Israeli Dana International won the Eurovision Song Contest. That is the story presented here of how androgyny, cross-dressing and other manifestations of sexual ambiguity permeated mainstream popular music. David Bowie, with his bisexual Ziggy Stardust became a seminal figure. But the Kinks also contributed with a hit single, *Lola*, about a transvestite, as did Lou Reed on the track featuring New York drag queens which gives this programme its title. And so on by way of glam-rock, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and Boy George. Meanwhile Annie Lennox, with her cropped hair and men's clothes, demonstrated that women, too, could cross the gender lines.

Peter Waymark

RADIO CHOICE

Afternoon Play: Women on Love
Radio 4, 2.15pm

The *Afternoon Play* slot has taken to theming in the past few months and the device has worked out well, though the increase in the number of listeners at this time probably owes more to *The Archers* being moved to 2pm. This four-part series of plays, all written by women, all inspired by a favourite love poem also written by a woman, starts today with *Warming Her Pearls* by Sarah Daniels, which is taken from the poem by Carol Ann Duffy. Rosemary Leach has produced some marvellous performances on radio and she is once again superb as Annie, a woman who decides to take action after realising that suppressing an affair she had many years ago has had a terrible effect on her daughter and grand-daughter.

Lent Talks: The Dove Descending
Radio 4, 8.45pm

Radio 4 may be the supreme example of speech radio but that does not mean it does enough in the way of talks. Plenty of talking, true, but not enough talks. Readers often write to say that there were more talks on the radio 30 or 40 years ago but I suspect that every generation thinks something of the kind. I welcome this chance to highlight a proper series of talks over the next seven weeks in which writers use the Easter story as a basis for their reflections on religious matters. The author A.N. Wilson will strike a chord with lots of people in Britain when he speaks today about how his Christian faith has ebbed away without affecting his underlying affection for the Church of England.

Peter Barnard

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Ball **9.00** Mark Goodier **12.00pm** Kevin Greening **2.00** Mark Radcliffe **4.00** Chris Moyles **5.45** Newsbeat **6.00** Dave Pearce **8.00** Steve Lamacq: The Evening Sessio **10.00** Movie Update with Mark Kermode **10.10** Peel Sessions Live. Live from the Queen Elizabeth Hall on London's South Bank **12.00am** Blue Jam **1.00** Gilles Peterson **4.00** Scott Mills

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Sarah Kennedy **7.30** Wogan **9.30** Ken Bruce **12.00pm** Richard Littlejohn **2.00** Ed Stewart **5.05** Johnnie Walker **7.00** Nick Barraclough **8.00** Mike Harding **9.00** The Andy Peebles Soul Show **10.00** Top of the Pops 2 on 2 **10.30** Richard Allinson **12.00am** Katrina Leskanich **3.00** Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

5.00am Morning Reports **6.00** Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **12.00pm** The Midday News **1.00** Ruscoe and Co **4.00** Drive **7.00** News Extra **7.30** John Inverdale's Football Night: Leicester City v Sunderland in the Worthington Cup semi-final; Manchester United v Arsenal in the Premiership, and Celtic and Kilmarnock. Plus, the National Lottery draw **10.00** Littlejohn **11.00** Late Night Live **1.00am** Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am The Big Boys Breakfast **9.00** Scott Chisholm **12.00pm** Jacobs Justice **1.00** Anna Raeburn **3.00** Peter Deeley **5.00** The SportZone **7.00** Off Side with Seb Coe **8.00** James Whale **1.00am** Ian Collins and the Creatures of the Night

VIRGIN

6.30am Chris Evans **9.30** Mark Forrest **1.00pm** Nick Abbot **4.00** Harriet Scott **6.45** Pete and Geoff **10.00** James Merritt **1.00am** Steve Power **4.30** Richard Allen

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today **7.00** World News **7.15** Outlook **7.55** My Century **8.00** World News **8.05** Westway **8.20** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.35** One Planet **9.00** World News **9.05** Britain Now **9.20** World Ranking **9.50** Sports Round-Up **10.00** Newsdesk **10.30** Britain Today **10.45** Legal World **11.00** Newsdesk **11.30** Sports International **12.00pm** World News **12.05** Outlook **12.45** Sports Round-Up **1.00** Newshour **2.00** World News **2.05** One Planet **2.30** Meridian Live **3.00** World News **3.05** Sports Round-Up **3.15** From Our Own Correspondent **3.30** Jazzmatazz **4.00** World News **4.15** Insight **4.30** Multitrack: X- Press **5.00** Europe Today **5.30** World Business Report **5.45** Sports Round-Up **6.00** World News **6.15** Britain Today **6.30** Sports International **7.00** World News **7.05** One Planet **7.30** Legal World **7.45** Off the Shelf: Captain Corelli's Mandolin **8.00** Newshour **9.00** World News **9.05** World Business Report **9.20** Britain Today **9.30** On Screen **10.00** World News **10.15** Sports Round-Up **10.30** Multitrack: X-Press **11.00** World News **11.05** Outlook **12.00am** The World Today **12.30** One Planet **12.55** My Century **1.00** The World Today **1.30** Meridian Live **2.00** The World Today **2.30** Everywoman **3.00** The World Today **3.20** Sports Round-Up **3.30** World Business Report **3.45** Insight **4.00** The World Today

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey's Easier Breakfast. Soothing music and information updates **8.00** Henry Kelly. The Hall of Fame Hour, and favourite pieces voted for in the Classic FM Top 300 **12.00pm** Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones spins listeners' favourites **2.00** Concerto. Rutland Boughton (Oboe Concerto No 1 in C major) **3.00** Jamie Crick. Including Afternoon Romance and Continuous Classics **6.30** Newsnight Headlines, arts news and guests **7.00** Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning introduces easy-listening sounds **9.00** Evening Concert. Tavener (Missa Gloria Tibi Trinitas), Elgar (The Light of Life) **11.00** Michael Mappin. Music and conversation through the small hours **2.00am** Concerto. Rutland Boughton (Oboe Concerto No 1 in C major) (r) **3.00** Mark Griffiths. The Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air with Petroc Trelawny. Includes Holst (St Paul's Suite); Sibelius (Finlandia); Stravinsky (Shrovetide Fair, Petrushka)
9.00 Masterworks with Peter Hobday. Includes Mendelssohn (String Symphony No 10 in B minor); Bach (Cantata No 51), Schubert (Impromptu in C minor, D899 No 1), Sibelius (Valse Triste). Dvorak Symphony No 5 in F)
10.30 Artist of the Week: Raphael Wallfisch
11.00 Sound Stories: Exiles The life of Karl Marx
12.00pm Composer of the Week: Dvorak
1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert A recital by Lynsey Marsh, clarinet and Zoe Solomon, piano
2.00 The BBC Orchestras BBC Philharmonic under Richard Hickox and Vassily Sinaisky
4.00 Choral Evensong for Ash Wednesday Live from the Chapel of St John's College, Cambridge. Director of music Christopher Robinson. Organ student Robert Houssart
5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty is joined in the studio by the baritone Simon Keenlyside
7.30 Performance on 3 A concert by the Williams Fairey Band and the Fodens (Courtois) Band, given last month to mark three anniversaries: the sixtieth birthday of the composer John McCabe, the fiftieth birthday of Philip Wilby, and the centenary of the Foden Band from Sandbach, Cheshire. The first part of the concert is given by the Williams Fairey Band, musical director James Gowlay. McCabe (Salamander); Holst (A Moorside Suite); Wilby (Revelation: Symphony for Double Brass). Fodens (Courtois) Band, under Nicholas Childs. Ireland (Comedy Overture); Wilby (Lowry Sketchbook); McCabe (Cloudcatcher Fells)
9.15 Postscript: Aria (3/5)
9.40 Schubert (Gesang der Geister uber den Wassern, D714), performed by the Monteverdi Choir and string ensemble under John Eliot Gardiner
10.00 Ensemble: Jazz Connections Includes Ravel (Violin Sonata), performed by Nicola Loud, Sam Haywood, piano. Gershwin (Three Preludes), performed by Zoe Mather, piano
10.45 Night Waves Patrick Wright investigates the life and work of the poet turned painter Henri Michaux
11.30 Jazz Notes Alyn Shipton presents the final part of a concert by the Diana Krall Trio
12.00am Composer of the Week: Telemann (r)
1.00 Through the Night with Donald Macleod **1.00** Michael Schonheit, organ **2.15** Brahms (Piano Quintet) **3.00** Patrick Burgau (Stabat Mater) **3.30** Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 1) **4.20** Lutoslawski (Mini Overture) **4.25** Jarzebski (Diligam te, Domine, Cantate Domino, excs; In Deo Speravit, In te Domine Speravi) **4.50** Francaix (Serenade)

RADIO 4

5.30am World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Farming Today Rural issues, with Rachel Morgan
6.00 Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Political news
9.00 Midweek Lively conversation with the Times columnist Libby Purves and guests
9.45 (LW) Daily Service
9.45 (FM) Serial: Planet of the Blind Stephen Kuusisto's account of his college years (3/5)
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Murray and guests
11.00 Murder, Magic and Medicine Dr Michael O'Donnell assesses the role of herbal remedies in the 21st century. Last in series (6/6)
11.30 Tomorrow at the Same Time (4/6) (r)
12.00pm (LW) News Headlines; Shipping Forecast
12.00 (FM) News 12.04 You and Yours Consumer news and investigations, presented by Mark Whittaker and Trine Rawlinson
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarke
1.30 Board Game Peter Day, Stephen Bayley, Lord Haskins and Alastair Ross Goobey take part in the business quiz chaired by Nigel Cassidy
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Afternoon Play: Women on Love Warming her Pearls. A woman agonises over whether to reveal a dark secret from her past. See Choice
3.00 Gardeners' Question Time (r)
3.30 Science in the Attic A profile of the amateur archaeologist Tim Laurie (3/5)
3.45 This Sceptred Isle Anna Massey narrates part 33 of the history of Britain
4.00 All in the Mind Professor Anthony Clare explores the limits of the human mind
4.30 Thinking Allowed Laurie Taylor and guests think the unthinkable about society
5.00 PM with Clare English and Chris Lowe
6.00 Six O'Clock News
6.30 Ballylenon Christopher Fitz-Simon's comedy drama. The sale of an ancestral home causes intense speculation. Starring T P McKenna, Margaret D'Arcy and Stella McCusker (r)
7.00 The Archers
7.15 Front Row The nightly arts programme
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Part three. Broadcast earlier as part of *Woman's Hour* (r)
8.00 The Moral Maze Michael Buerk presents topical debate, with David Starkey, Janet Daley, Ian Hargreaves and David Cook
8.45 Lent Talks New series. Writers with contrasting religious beliefs discuss the Easter story, beginning with A.N. Wilson. See Choice (1/7)
9.00 Frontiers Peter Evans extols the little-known benefits of increased noise
9.30 Midweek Broadcast earlier (r)
10.00 The World Tonight Presented by Justin Webb
10.45 Book at Bedtime: Post Captain Patrick Malahide reads part three of Patrick O'Brien's historic seafaring novel
11.00 Late Night on 4: Truly, Madly, Bletchley Julian Dutton's comedy based in the town of Bletchley. With Liz Fraser, Peter Hugo-Daly and special guest Cleo Rocos (2/6)
11.15 MacFlintock's Palace Comedy set in a Victorian music hall, written and performed by Mark McDonnell and Steven McNicoll (2/6)
11.30 (FM) Mammon A satirical spin on the world of money and the media by Nick Hildred, Hugh Rycroft and David Spicer (1/8) (r)
11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political update
11.45 (LW) Parliamentary Postcards
12.00am News 12.30 The Late Book: All Points North Part three. Simon Armitage's wry observations of life in his home village of Marsden, West Yorkshire (r)
12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. **RADIO 2.** FM 88.0-90.2. **RADIO 3.** FM 90.2-92.4. **RADIO 4.** FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. **RADIO 5 LIVE.** MW 693, 909. **WORLD SERVICE.** MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55am). **CLASSIC FM.** FM 100-102. **VIRGIN RADIO.** FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. **TALK RADIO.** MW 1053, 1089.
Television and radio listings compiled by Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamara.



Getting one's teeth into the market for art

One of the more startling recent changes in the art world is that people don't automatically regard modern art as a joke; or as an elaborate con-trick perpetrated by pranksters who are the artistic equivalent of *Candid Camera*, people making paintings purely for the purpose of gauging the public's gullibility; or as the product of deluded youths who believe themselves to be artists, but have the artistic talent of a radish.

It's not that we don't reserve the right to pass judgment on the mental stability of artists in the Turner Prize shortlist, or whose work appears in shows like *Sensation* at the Royal Academy, but that we at least bother to go along and form an opinion Today, if you see a painting you fel your five-year-old son could have done, you don't just stand andsnigger: you get him represenation in Cork Street or Clerkenwell.

Of course, a lot of contemporary art *is* still junk. And there is still fierce debate about whether, say Jeff Koons, is an artistic genius or a charlatan. But just look at the crowds that swarm through the annual contemporary art fair in Islington. Look at how auction houses now hold sales of contemporary art — the sort of stuff which, ten years ago, was largely worthless and which had no secondary market the minute it left the gallery. There's now not only a renewed interest in modern art, but a new passion for owning it.

Beginning a new BBC2 series of *Close Up*, Chris Granlund's film **Collectors** tried to unravel what made people eager to write the cheques. Buying contemporary art is still a brave thing to do. Your friends will probably laugh at you, especially if you admit how much you paid for it: as an investment, buying paintings that have been in and out of salerooms for centuries is safer. With rare exceptions, the resale value of contemporary art still sinks as soon as it has left the gallery.

Putting a value on contemporary art is a headache in the first place. Anyone who thinks price doesn't (or shouldn't) play a part in decisions of artistic merit need only look at the case of John Myatt, the master forger, whose skill tricked leading galleries and collectors into embracing his copies of Ben Nicholsons and Giacomettis as the real things: why don't those galleries and collectors love the paintings just as much as they used to? They just don't.

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Granlund found that, as far as collecting goes, sense doesn't come into it. It's all passion. You've either been stricken by the fever or you haven't. Vanessa Branson compares her quest for buying art to a form of modern-day hunting: "You find your beast and you isolate it, you hunt, and then you bag your catch. It's very, very satisfactory." Branson is an indefatigable enthusiast. She used to run her own gallery just around the corner from where I live and each time you passed she would try to get you to share her excitement about paintings in her latest exhibition. Of course she wanted to sell them, but I don't think she really needed the money. She told us last night that buying, and commissioning, art had even helped her through her recent divorce. She, like many other collectors, gets a big thrill from knowing that the artist is still alive, still painting. And there is always that casino quality to it: will these turn out to be the Pollocks and Rothkos of the future, or will they struggle to wash their face at a boot sale in 50 years' time?

Perhaps the shrewdest of the collectors we met was Adrian Mullish, a dentist who for many years fixed Damien Hirst's teeth free in exchange for artworks, an arrangement I'm sure he has made clear to the taxman. He owns a spot painting and has one of Hirst's medicine cabinets hanging in his surgery (his wife won't let it in the house), which, frankly, blends just a little too well into the surgery's surroundings really to stand out as a work of art. Maybe it isn't anyway. Hirst, who has benefited more than most from the money being thrown at the Young British Artists, is naturally dismissive of the vulgarians who think of art as commodities with price tags. And he calls auction houses Oxfam shops trading in second-hand art; that is, art which is no longer exciting and vibrant, but just objects to be bought and sold. Bless him.

Jarvis Cocker, a former student at St Martins College of Art, also champions a non-commercial view of art. In **Journeys into the Outside with Jarvis Cocker**, Channel 4 gave the Pulp singer licence to visit various sites in France that are considered art by the people who produced them, but not by the artistic establishment. To prove to us that there is "much more to art than the stuff that hangs on gallery walls", Cocker showed us weird houses and edifices lovingly created by men who were either unsung heroes or slightly deranged.

Take Bodhan Litnianski, a Ukrainian who moved to France in the 1930s and has surrounded his house with a forest of tall cement totem poles, each of which is covered with objects he has collected from the local dump. The arrangement? This comes to him in his dreams. I'd love to see how the estate agent markets this property when the time comes to put it on the market.

You could call Litnianski's vision slightly unsavoury, but was it as unsavoury as Channel 4's **The Coroner**, a new four-part docu-soap on the Birmingham City Coroner's Office? Staff at the coroner's office all seem very compassionate and efficient, smashing people. And Ian Taylor's film did a snappy job of making a gruesome subject interesting. But it still felt as if we were intruding on the grief of strangers.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (91833)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (11524)
9.00 Kilroy (T) (8850949)
9.45 The Vanessa Show (T) (4259524)
10.55 News; Weather (T) (321388)
11.00 Change That (633165)
11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (6301524)
11.55 News; Weather (T) (1584611)
12.00pm Call My Bluff (3271)
12.30 Wipeout (8962253)
12.55 The Weather Show (T) (48057475)
1.00 One O'Clock News (T) (14611)
1.30 Regional News; Weather (47779543)
1.40 Neighbours (T) (2866098)
2.05 Ironside (r) (3712659)
2.55 Body Spies (5066149)
3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6989678) **3.45** Little Monsters (2842982) **3.50** ChuckleVision (568194) **4.10** See It Saw It (3191388) **4.35** The Wild House (5744543) **5.00** Newsround (2284611) **5.10** Blue Peter (686253)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (946562)
6.00 Six O'Clock News; Weather (T) (494)
6.30 Regional Newsmagazine (746)
7.00 Airport (r) (T) (753)
7.30 Tomorrow's World New series. Anya Sitaram investitates new advances in fertility treatment (T) (630)



Eddie Murphy returns as the maverick cop Axel Foley (8pm)

8.00 Beverly Hills Cop III (1993) Eddie Murphy reprises the role that shot him to stardom as the unconventional cop Axel Foley. Directed by John Landis. Continues at **9.30pm** (T) (246272)
8.50 The National Lottery: Amazing Luck Stories (536562)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (T) (1302)
9.29 National Lottery Update (654611)
9.30 FILM Beverly Hills Cop III The conclusion of tonight's film (T) (615340)
10.20 Match of the Day Highlights of Manchester United v Arsenal (T) (789659)
11.10 Black and White The reporters investigate discrimination in the job market (2/3) (T) (895104)
11.45 Robbie Williams: For One Night Only Exclusive concert in front of an invited audience (r) (T) (796494)
12.35am The Idolmaker (1980) Biopic chronicling the career of pop promoter Bob Marcucci. Directed by Taylor Hackford (T) (275673)
2.30 Weather (4142963)
2.35 BBC News 24 (78834383)

10.20 The State (283272) **10.50 Match of the Day** (T) (584712) **11.40 Black and White** (2/3) (T) (67746) **12.15am Robbie Williams: For One Night Only** (r) (T) (7356532) **1.10 FILM: The Idolmaker** (T) (528316) **3.05 News Headlines and Weather** (T) (98055876) **3.10-6.00 BBC News 24** (97057895)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Tales of the Tooth Fairies (3017098) **7.05** Teletubbies (6928340) **7.30** Snorks (9073253) **7.50** The Really Wild Show (6790727) **8.18** Rewind (9957833) **8.20** Taz-Mania (2937833) **8.45** Polka Dot Shorts (3884307) **8.55** Tales of the Tooth Fairies (8169982) **9.00** Environment (2083663) **9.10** What? Where? When? Why? (8683807) **9.25** The Art (4695456) **9.45** Words and Pictures (1785833) **10.00** Teletubbies (91272) **10.30** Numbertime (2782727) **10.45** Cats' Eyes (2770982) **11.00** Around Scotland (1264433) **11.20** The Geography Programme (8071659) **11.40** Science in Action (8472543) **12.00pm** Revista (9451920) **12.15** Hallo aus Berlin (7999185) **12.30** Working Lunch (31727) **1.00** Brum (94030765)
1.10 The Travel Hour (r) (9794727)
2.10 Sporting Greats (61840036)
2.40 News; Weather (T) (3102814)
2.45 Match of Their Day (7/18) (T) (2659456)
3.25 News; Weather (T) (7492054)
3.30 Awash with Colour (524)
4.00 Kaye Advice show (6060949)
4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (T) (6063036)
4.55 Esther (r) (T) (3307017)
5.30 Today's the Day (T) (123)
6.00 Star Trek: The Next Generation Wesley's Starfleet Academy squadron suffers a deadly collision (r) (T) (481562)
6.40 Buffy the Vampire Slayer (T) (247340)
7.25 Five Go Mad in the Kitchen Recipes for Comic Relief (r) (T) (602524)
7.30 [CHOICE] **Sophie Grigson's Herbs** New series. The cookery writer celebrates herbs (T) (272)
8.00 Jerwood Fashion Prize Cameras follow young hopefuls in the world of fashion as they compete for the prize (T) (4543)



Lowri Turner returns with the fashion and beauty series (8.30pm)

8.30 [CHOICE] **Looking Good** New series of the fashion programme with Lowri Turner (T) (3678)
9.00 Modern Times New series. A unique look behind the scenes of Madame Tussaud's (T) (761727)
9.50 [CHOICE] **Blood on the Carpet** The feud between two factions of the Countryside Alliance (T) (531949)
10.30 Newsnight (T) (655388)
11.15 The Outer Limits A man makes a shocking discovery (T) (430291)
12.00am The Phil Silvers Show (r) (6875079)
12.25 Weather (5435673)
12.30 BBC Learning Zone: Open University: Food **1.00** Healing the Whole **1.30** A Time to be Born **2.00** Schools: Special Needs **4.00** Languages: Suenos World Spanish 13-16 **5.00** Business and Training: Voluntary Matters **5.30** 20 Steps to Better Management: Helping Others to Achieve **5.45** Open University: Questions About Behaviour **6.10** A Conflict of Interests **6.35** Hearing the Call

HTV

5.30am ITN Morning News (37123)
6.00 GMTV (5767730)
9.25 Trisha (T) (5210475)
10.30 This Morning (T) (11317982)
12.15pm HTV News (T) (7986611)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News (T) (28253)
1.00 WEST: Next Stop Richard Wyatt, Polly Lloyd and correspondents visit Bridgewater to review local developments (49307)
1.00 WALES: Shortland Street Rebecca faces rejection (49307)
1.30 Home and Away Joel fights to save his family (T) (27524)
2.00 The Jerry Springer Show Outrageous US talk show (T) (5638814)
2.45 Dale's Supermarket Sweep (T) (324920)
3.15 ITN News Headlines (T) (2052956)
3.20 HTV News (T) (5202479)
3.25 CITV: Cartoon Time (6974746) **3.45** Jumanji (6861104) **4.10** Whizzwig (6036982) **4.40** Mad for It (2075746)
5.10 A Country Practice Harry changes his views on religion (9076543)
5.40 ITN Early Evening News; Weather (T) (544253)
5.59 HTV Crimestoppers (785901)
6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (848497)
6.25 WALES: Wales Tonight; Weather (T) (756388)
6.25 WEST: HTV Weather (120185)
6.30 WEST: The West Tonight (T) (814)
7.00 Emmerdale Lyn tests Marlon's love for her (T) (2949)
7.30 Coronation Street Nick and Leanne arrive back from Canada (T) (758)



Johnny Vaughan introduces the star-studded ceremony (8pm)

8.00 The Brit Awards 1999 Johnny Vaughan hosts the pop industry's annual bash from London Arena, with performances by Cher, Boyzone, The Corrs, Manic Street Preachers and Robbie Williams, plus a celebration of Abba's 25th anniversary (T) (7746)
10.00 News at Ten; Weather (T) (80758)
10.30 HTV News and Weather (T) (947901)
10.40 [CHOICE] **Walk on the Wildside** A nostalgic look at the history of glam rock (T) (763746)
11.40 Renegade Reno runs into trouble with a voodoo curse in New Orleans (809307)
12.40am Descending Angel (1990) A man formerly suspected of being a Nazi war criminal finds his past again coming under scrutiny. Starring George C. Scott. Directed by Jeremy Kagan (167215)
2.25 Masterclass With photographer James Martin (5/9) (7665963)
2.55 Judge Judy (T) (1212895)
3.25 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (9115031)
4.25 The Making of Elizabeth Behind-the-scenes report (39305876)
4.50 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (88716760)
5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (46012)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except: **12.20pm-12.30 Central News**; Weather (T) (8385543) **1.00 Echo Point** (49307) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1489104) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (332949) **3.20-3.25 Central News** (T) (5202479) **5.10-5.40 Shortland Street** (9076543) **6.25-7.00 Central News**; Weather (T) (756388) **10.30-10.40 Central News**; Weather (T) (947901) **11.40 Central Sports Special** (361307) **12.50am FILM: Descending Angel** (163499) **2.35 Masterclass** (5/9) (6441401) **3.05-3.20 Judge Judy** (T) (55309298) **4.20 Central Jobfinder '99** (T) (4602079) **5.20-5.30 Asian Eye** (7294944)

As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News**; Weather (T) (7986611) **12.27-12.30 Illuminations** (8393562) **1.00 Emmerdale** (r) (T) (49307) **1.30 The Jerry Springer Show** (T) (1489104) **2.15-2.45 Home and Away** (T) (332949) **3.20-3.25 Westcountry News**; Weather (T) (5202479) **5.08 Birthday People** (5178369) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9076543) **6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live** (T) (36272) **10.30-10.40 Westcountry News**; Weather (T) (947901) **11.40-12.40 Kylie: Intimate and Live** (809307)

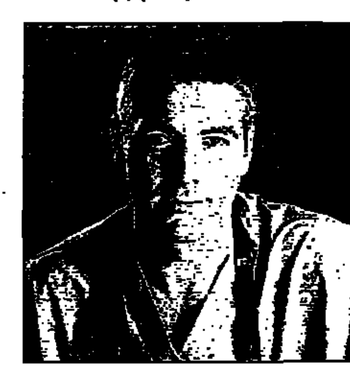
As HTV West except: **12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News**; Weather (7986611) **1.00-1.35 Shortland Street** (9753746) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9076543) **6.00 Meridian Tonight** (T) (562) **6.30-7.00 Country Vets** (1/6) (r) (814) **10.30-10.40 Meridian News**; Weather (T) (947901) **11.40-12.40 Anatomy of Disaster** (809307) **5.00am-5.30 Freescreen** (T) (46012)

As HTV West except: **12.19pm Anglia Air Watch** (8304678) **12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather** (8385543) **1.00-1.35 Shortland Street** (9753746) **5.10-5.40 Home and Away** (T) (9076543) **5.59 Anglia Weather** (T) (785901) **6.00 Anglia News** (T) (562) **6.30-7.00 Whipsnade** (4/13) (T) (814) **10.29 Anglia Air Watch** (574235) **10.30-10.40 Anglia News and Weather** (T) (947901) **11.40 Crime Night** (989938) **11.55 First Take** (343456) **12.10am-12.40 Tales from the Darkside** (6841012)

Starts: **5.55am Sesame Street** (r) (54143861) **7.00 The Big Breakfast** (34984036) **9.00 The Bigger Breakfast**; Saved by the Bell (29396494) **9.30 Sam and Max** (10066727) **9.55 Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension** (T) (10074746) **10.25 Boy Meets World** (T) (57061814) **10.50 Moesha** (T) (50717746) **11.20 Madison** (53075104) **11.45 The Bigger Breakfast** (59085765) **12.00pm Bewitched** (T) (29376630) **12.30 Sesame Street** (T) (38921017) **1.00 Planed Plant** (T) (34987123) **1.30 The Three Stooges** (r) (T) (27501901) **1.50 FILM: The Long Memory** (T) (67909271) **3.30 Collectors' Lot** (T) (81819901) **4.00 Fifteen-to-One** (T) (81838036) **4.30 Dishes** (T) (81827920) **5.00 Planed Plant**: (T) (64308611) **5.30 Countdown** (T) (81818272) **6.00 Newyddion 6** (T) (54120494) **6.10 Heno** (T) (16096901) **7.00 Pobol y Cwm** (T) (64328475) **7.30 Newyddion** (T) (81835949) **8.00 Ffermio** (T) (64337123) **8.30 Pacio** (T) (64316630) **9.00 ER** (T) (12311253) **10.00 Brookside** (T) (60018340) **10.35 Sex and the City** (T) (56432678) **11.05 Eurotrash** (T) (67266562) **11.35 The Mark Thomas Comedy Product** (T) (63378833) **12.05am The Spying Game** (2/6) (T) (50659963) **12.45 Football Italia: Mezzanotte** (19071031) **3.10 Trans World Sport** (64938692) **4.10 Diwedd**

CHANNEL 4

5.30am Rat-a-Tat-Tat (3635982)
5.45 Animal Alphabet (8746340)
5.50 The Magic Roundabout (8743253)
5.55 Sesame Street (3491475)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (37562)
9.00 The Bigger Breakfast; Saved by the Bell (11475)
9.30 Sam and Max (9245524)
9.55 Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension (T) (9253543)
10.25 Boy Meets World (T) (1071307)
10.50 Moesha (r) (T) (2349123)
11.20 Madison (1969681)
11.45 The Bigger Breakfast (8475630)
12.00pm Sesame Street (T) (91611)
12.30 Bewitched (r) (T) (59123)
1.00 Pet Rescue Highlights from the first series (T) (47949)
1.30 The Three Stooges (13404901)
1.50 The Lamp Still Burns (1943) Adventure about wartime probationary nurses in a British hospital, based on a novel by Monica Dickens. Stewart Granger stars. Directed by Maurice Elvey (T) (46353272)
3.30 Collectors' Lot Kitchenware (T) (920)
4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (727)
4.30 Countdown (T) (5738982)
4.55 Ricki Lake With special guests the Spice Girls (T) (3392185)
5.30 Pet Rescue Staff struggle to contain a highly infectious disease sweeping through the cattery (T) (291)
6.00 Late Lunch with Mel and Sue (34814)
7.00 Channel 4 News; Weather (T) (147901)
7.55 Zoom Photocopying the human body (T) (494730)
8.00 Brookside Nikki becomes increasingly confused (T) (9611)
8.30 The Real Holiday Show A woman describes her first foreign holiday alone on the ski slopes of Austria and two friends getting over broken relationships go snowboarding — but will romance blossom? (T) (8746)



Dr Ross (George Clooney) finally gets his dream job (9pm)

9.00 ER Ross adjusts to his new role as the paediatric attending doctor, while Greene can do no wrong in Rachel's eyes. Starring George Clooney (T) (4036)
10.00 Sex and the City Charlotte's boyfriend makes an unusual request (T) (92340)
10.30 Eurotrash Continental capers with Antoine de Caunes (r) (T) (18388)
11.00 Mark Thomas Comedy Product Satirical comedy (5017)
11.30 So Graham Norton (r) (883320)
12.10am boardstupid goes skiing Snowboarding news (r) (2200505)
12.45 Football Italia: Mezzanotte Round-up of the week's action (13789673)
3.10 Trans World Sport (6848673)
4.05 It's Never Too Late (1956) A bored woman decides to spice up her life by becoming a scriptwriter. Comedy, with Phyllis Calvert. Directed by Michael McCarthy (421673)

CHANNEL 5

6.00am 5 News and Sport With Becky Anderson (6334982)
7.00 WideWorld Part four. The role of chemistry in the survival of mankind (r) (T) (6709123)
7.30 Milkshake! (2807887)
7.35 Wimzie's House (r); 5 News Update (3961949)
8.00 Havakazoo (r) (4737123)
8.30 Dappledown Farm (r); 5 News Update (4736494)
9.00 Hot Property (r) (T) (1429630)
9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (7154901)
9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (r) (6807185)
10.20 Sunset Beach A body is found (T) (1814678)
11.10 Leeza (4216901)
12.00pm 5 News at Noon (T) (4707982)
12.30 Family Affairs Cat ponders Dave's sudden lack of interest (r) (T); 5 News Update (9759456)
1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful A misunderstanding arises (T) (6708494)
1.30 The Roseanne Show (9758727)
2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (5904456)
2.30 Good Afternoon Daily entertainment; 5 News Update (1557036)
3.30 The Great Pretender (TVM 1991) A newspaper columnist assigned a routine obituary inquiry uncovers evidence against a local gangster. Thriller, starring Bruce Greenwood and Jessica Steen. Directed by Gus Trikonis (9541098)
5.20 Sunset Beach Shown earlier (r) (T); 5 News Update (5493479)
6.00 100 Per Cent Computer-generated quiz (6154901)
6.30 Family Affairs Claire makes a bid for freedom (T) (6145253)
7.00 5 News; Weather (T) (5908272)
7.30 Champions of Nature Efforts to protect the gorillas inhabiting Rwanda's Volcanoes National Park (T); 5 News Update (6174765)
8.00 Into the Flames Footage and eye-witness accounts of real air disasters, visiting leading training centres where planes are used for crash tests, and exploring new safety measures including satellite technology, thermal cameras and hydraulic firefighting lances. Last in series (3/3) (T) (1096494)
9.00 Original Sin (TVM 1989) A couple's four-year-old son is kidnapped, leading to the revelation of a guilty secret that threatens to destroy the distraught family. Thriller, starring Charlton Heston, Ann Jillian and Robert Desiderio. Directed by Ron Satlof (T) (99452543)
10.55 Melinda's Big Night In With guests Richard O'Brien and Anna Ryder Richardson (8092678)
11.35 UK Raw Trevor Ward and Tanya Broome present a new series of bizarre and unusual stories, meeting British porn star Mario Franchi and a man with a penchant for skin-piercing (6900765)
12.05am NHL: American Ice Hockey Coverage of the Phoenix Coyotes at Anaheim Mighty Ducks from the American NHL (82038741)
4.35 The Movie Chart Show News and reviews (r) (99622418)
5.05 Move On Up (r) (46605437)
5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (9799012)

PAY TV: SATELLITE, CABLE AND DIGITAL

● For further listings see Saturday's *Vision*

SKY ONE

7.00am Count Duckula (80678) **7.30** Chris Evans (43949) **8.30** Granny (53475) **9.00** Earworm Jim (44727) **9.30** Flash Gordon (8859) **10.00** Miracles and Other Wonders (8569) **11.00** Guilty! (78833) **12.00pm** Jerry Jones (61982) **1.00** Mad About You (8949) **1.30** Jeopardy (81746) **2.00** Sally Jessy Raphael (38369) **3.00** Jenny Jones (8360) **4.00** Guilty! (94415) **5.00** Star Trek: Voyager (5814) **6.00** Guilty! (9746) **6.30** Friends (9758) **7.00** Simpsons (6543) **7.30** (992) **8.00** Mortal Kombat: Conquest (2059) **9.00** The X-Files (33123) **10.00** Naked in Westminster (79162) **11.00** Friends (44974) **11.30** Star Trek: Voyager (9901) **12.30am** The Commish (27050) **1.30** Long Play (7451654)

SKY BOX OFFICE

Sky's pay-per-view movie channels. To view any film telephone 0990 800888
SKY BOX OFFICE 1 (Transponder 51) **Boogie Nights** (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 2 (Transponder 60) **In and Out** (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) **Fairytale: A True Story** (1997)
SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) **Picture Perfect** (1997)

FILMFOUR

6.00pm Lost World (1960) (98847920) **7.40** Hall of Fame: Charlie Chaplin (1798098) **8.00 Wolf** (1994) (31485475) **10.05 Blow-Up** (1966) (4068524) **12.00am Visions of Light** (8239789) **1.30 Riff Raff** (1990) (1563654) **3.10 Mac** (1992) (95243924) **5.00** Close

SKY PREMIER

6.00am Cocoon: The Return (1988) (20365) **8.00 Problem Child** (1990) (41291) **10.00 Problem Child II** (1991) (8333) **12.00 Magic in the Water** (1995) (4814) **2.00 Cocoon: The Return** (1988) (25104) **4.00 Problem Child** (1990) (8388) **6.00 Problem Child II** (1991) (48253) **7.30** Barry Norman's Film Night (5920) **8.00 Men in Black** (1997) (17185) **10.00 Blood and Wine** (1996) (628630) **11.40 Postcards from the Edge** (1990) (775307) **1.25am The Cherokee Kid** (1996) (570186) **3.00 Edie and Pen** (1996) (585321) **4.40** Femmes Fatales (5835876)

SKY MOVIEMAX

5.25am The Baby-Sitters Club (1995) (80209494) **7.00** Femmes Fatales (75746) **7.30** Action Heroes (5559746) **8.15** Movie Magic (1453104) **9.00 Loyal Opposition: Terror in the White House** (TVM 1997) (30185) **11.00 Pee-Wee's Big Adventure** (1985) (14369) **1.00pm** Femmes Fatales (74017) **1.30** Action Heroes (8268104) **2.15** Movie Magic (2306814) **3.00 Loyal Opposition: Terror in the White House** (TVM 1997) (46017) **5.00 Pee-Wee's Big Adventure** (1985) (30524) **7.00 The Last Best Year** (1990) (48794) **8.30** E! News Week in Review (9494) **9.00 Murder in My Mind** (1997) (18814) **11.00 Fast Money** (1995) (230524) **12.35am Dead Ahead** (1996) (323944) **2.10 The Grotesque** (1995) (582437) **4.00 Lambada: Forbidden Dance** (1990) (333960)

SKY CINEMA

11.30am Hall of Fame: Rita Hayworth (9814456) **4.00pm Scarlet Claw** (1944) (4139456) **5.30** Hall of Fame (3189291) **6.00 Funny Face** (1957) (1853185) **8.00 The Lighthorsemen** (1987) (1858630) **10.00 Nevada Smith** (1966) (87280017) **12.10am Chel** (1969) (5708876) **1.50 The Rainbow** (1988) (2721437) **3.45 Holiday Affair** (1949) (91296383)

TNT

9.00pm The Asphalt Jungle (1950) (21208658) **11.15 Cool Breeze** (1972) (84475036) **1.15am Arturo's Island** (1963) (73122128) **3.00 The Asphalt Jungle** (1950) (98284334) **5.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 1

7.00am Sports Centre **7.15** Wrestling **8.15** You're On Sky Sports! **9.00** Racing News **9.30** Aerobics **10.00** European Tour Golf Weekly **10.30** Live Golf: Qatar Masters **1.30pm** Fastrax **2.00** Inside Scottish Football **3.00** Spanish Football **5.00** Wrestling **6.00** Sports Centre **6.30** Unbelievable Sports **7.00** Live Football **10.45** Sports Centre **11.00** You're On Sky Sports! **11.45** Sports Centre **12.00am** Football **1.30** Worthington Cup Football **3.00** You're On Sky Sports! **3.45** Sports Centre **4.00** Close

SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style **7.30** Sports Centre **7.45** Racing News **8.15** Fastrax **8.45** Sports Centre **9.00** Fish TV **10.00** Inside Scottish Football **11.00** Spanish Football **1.00pm** Powerboat and Jetski World **1.30** Total Sport **2.00** Live Snooker: Scottish Open **5.00** Unbelievable Sports **5.30** Fastrax **6.00** Watersports World **7.00** Live Worthington Cup Football **10.45** European Tour Golf: Qatar Masters **1.45am** Unbelievable Sports **2.15** Sports Centre **2.30** Close

SKY SPORTS 3

12.00pm World Wrestling Federation: Shotgun **1.00** Fish TV **2.00** Boxing Superbouts **3.00** The Entertainers **3.30** Powerboat and Jetski World **4.00** V-Max **4.30** Total Sport **5.00** European Seniors Tour Golf **6.00** Fish TV **7.00** Live Snooker: Scottish Open **10.00** Watersports World **11.00** Futbol Mundial **11.30** Close

EUROSPORT

7.30am Football: Eurogoals **9.00** Biathlon **10.30** Bobsleigh **11.30** Football **12.30pm** US Golf **1.30** Tennis **2.00** Live Tennis **4.00** Live Swimming **6.00** Start Your Engines **7.00** Four Wheels Drive **7.30** Trial **9.00** Sumo **10.00** Darts **11.00** Start Your Engines **12.00am** Car on Ice **12.30** Close

UK GOLD

7.00am Crossroads **7.30** Neighbours **7.55** EastEnders **8.30** The Bill **9.00** The Bill **9.30** When the Boat Comes In **10.30** Rhoda **11.00** Dallas **11.55** Neighbours **12.25pm** EastEnders **1.00** Juliet Bravo **2.00** Dallas **2.55** The Bill **3.25** The Bill **3.55** EastEnders **4.30** Rhoda **5.00** All Creatures Great and Small **6.00** Dynasty **7.00** 2point4 Children **7.40** Dad's Army **8.20** The Brittas Empire **9.00** Men Behaving Badly **9.40** Men Behaving Badly **10.20** Only Fools and Horses **11.45** The Bill **12.15am** The Bill **12.45** The Black Adder **1.25** French and Saunders **1.55** Spender **2.45** Shopping with Screenshop

GRANADA PLUS

6.00am Within These Walls **7.00** Bowler **7.30** Doctor in the House **8.00** Beadle's About **8.30** The Fosters **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** Emmerdale Farm **10.00** Upstairs Downstairs **11.00** Hawaii Five-O **12.00pm** Classic Coronation Street **12.30** Emmerdale Farm **1.00** Nearest and Dearest **1.30** Pig in the Middle **2.00** Upstairs Downstairs **3.00** The Love Boat **4.00** The Saint **5.00** Hawaii Five-O **6.00** Emmerdale Farm **6.30** Classic Coronation Street **7.00** Mission: Impossible **8.00** The Love Boat **9.00** Classic Coronation Street **9.30** The Comedians **10.00** Jokers Wild **10.30** Hogan's Heroes **11.00** Granada Men and Motors





The lovable hound takes his son Max on an epic cross-country adventure in *A Goofy Movie* (Disney Channel, 7pm)

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo **6.05** Masked Rider **6.30** Beetleborgs Metallix **6.55** Power Rangers Turbo **7.20** Power Rangers Turbo **7.45** Bureau of Alien Detectors **8.10** Mortal Kombat **8.30** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **9.00** Goosebumps **9.25** Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension **9.50** Home to Rent **10.00** Sam and Max **10.25** Mad Jack the Pirate **10.50** The Secret Files of the Spy Dogs **11.00** Life with Louie **11.25** C Bear and Jamal **11.50** Life with Louie or EekStravaganza **1.55pm** The Incredible Hulk **2.20** Iron Man **2.45** Fantastic Four **3.10** X-Men **3.30** The Big Half-Term Event **3.35** Mortal Kombat **4.00** Spiderman **4.25** Mowgli: The New Adventures of Jungle Book **4.50** Home to Rent **5.00** Goosebumps **5.25** Eerie, Indiana: The Other Dimension **5.55** Donkey Kong Country **6.25** Sam and Max **6.50** EekStravaganza **7.00** Close

DISNEY CHANNEL

6.00am Bear in the Big Blue House **6.30** PB and J Otter **7.00** 101 Dalmatians **8.00** Hercules: The TV Show **9.00** Art Attack **9.30** Doug **10.00** Recess **10.15** Pepper Ann **10.30** Smart Guy **11.00** Crash Zone **11.30** Boy Meets World **12.00pm** Student Bodies **12.30** Dinosaurs **1.00** Amazing Animals **1.30** Bear in the Big Blue House **2.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh **2.15** PB and J Otter **2.30** Quack Pack **3.00** The Little Mermaid **3.30** Art Attack **4.00** 101 Dalmatians **4.30** Hercules: The TV Show **5.00** Recess **5.15** Pepper Ann **5.30** Smart Guy **6.00** Teen Angel **6.30** Boy Meets World **7.00 FILM: A Goofy Movie** (1995) **8.15** Dinosaurs **9.00** Honey I Shrunk the Kids: The TV Show **9.45** Home Improvement **10.15** Mega Movie Magic **10.30** The Wonder Years **11.00** Touched by an Angel **12.00am** Close

NICKELODEON

6.00am Rocko's Modern Life **6.30** Rocko's Modern Life **7.00** Angry Beavers **7.30** Angry Beavers **8.00** CatDog **8.30** CatDog **9.00** Rugrats **9.30** Rugrats **10.00** The Wild Thornberrys **10.30** The Wild Thornberrys **11.00** Kenan and Kel **11.30** Kenan and Kel **12.00pm** Moesha **12.30** Moesha **1.00** The Journey of Allen Strange **1.30** The Journey of Allen Strange **2.00** Doug **2.30** Doug **3.00** Rugrats **3.30** Rugrats **4.00** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **4.30** Sabrina the Teenage Witch **5.00** Sister Sister **7.00** Close

TROUBLE

7.00am USA High **7.30** City Guys **8.00** Saved By The Bell: The New Class **8.30** Hang Time **9.00** Tempestt **9.50** On The Make **10.00** Saved By The Bell **10.30** Hollyoaks **11.00** Sweet Valley High **11.30** Ready or Not **12.00pm** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **12.30** In the House **1.00** Sweat **1.30** Tempestt **2.30** Hollyoaks **3.00** Ready Or Not **3.30** City Guys **4.00** The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air **4.30** In the House **5.00** Saved by the Bell: The New Class **5.30** Sweet Valley High **6.00** USA High **6.30** Blast **7.00** Sweat **7.30** Hang Time

BRAVO

8.00pm The A-Team **9.00** LAPD **9.30** Cops **10.00** Extreme Championship Wrestling **10.30** Erotic Confessions **11.00 FILM: Expose** (1975) **1.00am** Sex Bytes **1.35** Erotic Series **2.05** Extreme Championship Wrestling **2.35** Cops **2.50** Short **3.05 FILM: Bring Me the Head of Alfredo Garcia** (1974) **5.00** LAPD **5.30** Bushido **6.00** Close

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm Jenny **7.30** Grace Under Fire **8.00** Ellen **8.30** NewsRadio **9.00** Drop the Dead Donkey **9.30** Whose Line Is It Anyway? **10.00** Frasier **10.30** Cheers **11.00** Seinfeld **11.30** The Larry Sanders Show **12.00am** Late Night with David Letterman **1.00** Taxi **1.30** The Critic **2.00** Dr Katz **2.30** Tibs and Fibs **3.00** Nightstand **3.30** Abbott and Costello **4.00** Close

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY

7.30am Bloomberg Information Television **8.00** Sightings **9.00** Battlestar Galactica **10.00** Quantum Leap **11.00** Dark Shadows **11.30** The Ray Bradbury Theatre **12.00pm** Twilight Zone **12.30** Twilight Zone **1.00** Tales of the Unexpected **1.30** Tales of the Unexpected **2.00** Amazing Stories **2.30** Mysteries, Magic and Miracles **3.00** Battlestar Galactica **4.00** Incredible Hulk **5.00** Sightings **6.00** Time Trax **7.00** Quantum Leap **8.00** The Flash **9.00** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **10.00 FILM: Scanner Cop II: Volkin's Revenge** (1995) **11.45** Sci-Focus Special **12.00am** PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal **1.00 FILM: Creepshow** (1982) **3.00** Twilight Zone **3.30** Dark Shadows **4.00** Close

HOME & LEISURE

6.00am Today's Gourmet **6.30** Graham Kerr **7.00** Room Service **7.30** The Painted House **8.00** Wedding Story **8.30** A Baby Story **9.00** Simply Painting **9.25** The Home and Leisure House **9.30** Potted History with Antony Henn **10.00** Real Gardens **10.30** Cookabout with Greg and Max **11.00** The Dicemen **11.30** Fishing Australia **12.00pm** Our House Down Under **12.30** Antiques Trail **1.00** Our House **1.30** Hometime **2.00** New Yankee Workshop **2.30** Home Again with Bob Vila **3.00** This Old House with Steve and Norm **3.30** Go Fishing

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Rex Hunt Fishing Adventures **4.30** Walker's World **5.00** Wheel Nuts **5.30** Treasure Hunters **6.00** Animal Doctor **6.30** Secrets of the Deep **7.30** The Elegant Solution **8.00** Arthur C Clarke's Mysterious World **8.30** Creatures Fantastic **9.00** Mysterious Man of the Shroud **10.00** Dead Sea Scrolls: Unravelling the Mystery **11.00** Master Spies: The Real 007 **12.00am** UFO **1.00** Treasure Hunters **1.30** Wheel Nuts **2.00** Close

ANIMAL PLANET

12.00pm Totally Australia **1.00** Nature Watch with Julian Pettifer **1.30** Deadly Australians **2.00** All-Bird TV **2.30** Human/Nature **3.30** Harry's Practice **4.00** Jack Hanna's Zoo Life **4.30** Animal Doctor **5.00** Pet Rescue **5.30** Deadly Australians **6.00** The New Adventures of Black Beauty **6.30** Lassie **7.00** Rediscovery of the World **8.00** Animal Doctor **8.30** Horse Tales **9.00** Going Wild **9.30** Emergency Vets **10.00** Crocodile Hunter **11.00** Wildlife ER **11.30** Emergency Vets **12.00am** Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

7.00pm Primeval Islands **7.30** Diving with Seals **8.00** Among the Baboons **8.30** World of Sea **9.00** Bali: Masterpiece of the Gods **10.00** Wild Wheels **11.00** On the Edge: They Never Set Foot on the Moon **12.00am** Extreme Earth: Land of Fire and Ice **12.30** Extreme Earth: Liquid Earth

HISTORY

4.00pm The Civil War: Simply Murder **5.00** Classic Cars: Renault **6.00** The Search for Shangri-La **7.00** Battle of the Clans: Scotland the Brave

CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily **9.30** Chef on a Shoestring **10.00** Feasts of the World **10.30** Alive and Cooking **11.00** What's Cooking? **11.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **12.00pm** Food Network Daily **12.30** Scotland's Larder **1.00** Chef on a Shoestring **1.30** From the Ground Up **2.00** Caribbean Light **2.30** Food Network Daily **3.00** Surprise Chefs **3.30** Coxon's Kitchen College **4.00** Thoroughly Modern British **4.30** Chez Bruno **5.00** Close

LIVING

6.00am Tiny and Crew **6.20** Johnson and Friends **6.30** Greedysaurus and the Gang **6.40** Tiny Tales **6.45** Philbert the Frog **6.50** Polka Dot Shorts **7.00** Practical Parenting **7.05** Professor Bubble **7.30** Caillou **7.35** Bug Alert **7.55** Practical Parenting **8.00** Barney and Friends **8.25** Babaloos **8.30** Caillou **8.35** Tiny and Crew **8.50** Practical Parenting **9.00** Can't Cook, Won't Cook **9.30** The Roseanne Show **10.00** The Jerry Springer Show **10.50** Maury Povich **11.40** Brookside **12.10pm** Animal Rescue **12.40** Rescue 911 **1.10** Special Babies **1.40** Beyond Belief: Fact or Fiction **2.10** LA Law **3.10** Living Room **4.00** Michael Cole **4.50** Ro tanda **5.40** Ready, Steady, Cook **6.15** The Jerry Springer Show **7.05** Rescue 911 **7.35** Animal Rescue **8.10** Maury Povich **9.00** Nothing Lasts Forever **11.00** Sex Life Down Under **12.00am** Close

ZEE TV

5.30am Music Time **6.00** Out and About **6.30** Yoodle-Ae-Oo **7.00** Faith, Christian **7.30** News **8.00** India Business Report **8.30** Sailaab **9.00** Rishtey: The Love Stories **10.00** Soha **11.00** Aashiana **11.30** Parampara **12.00pm FILM: Anjaam** **3.00** Zee Bangla **3.30** Hum Paanch **4.00** Akbar Birbal **4.30** Ek Minute **5.00** Jungle Book **5.30** Gumrah **6.00** Top of the Tops **6.30** Banegi Apni Baat **7.00** Baat Ban Jaye **7.30** It's My Choice **8.00** News **8.30** Amanat **9.00** Hawaain **10.00** Ikke Pe Ikka **10.30** Woh **11.00** Purukshetra **12.00am** News **12.30** Tandoori Masala **1.00** Zee Bangla **1.30** Rashtra **2.00 FILM: Gujarati Movie: Samari Varte Savdhan** **4.30** Val No Valessar



GOLF 38
Coltart sets his sights on the Ryder Cup veterans

SPORT



SAILING 42
Autissier's battles against the tides of misfortune

New England manager to keep his connections with Fulham

Keegan performs double act

By Oliver Holt
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

KEVIN KEEGAN is set to be named as the new England manager today at a press conference in Sheffield after it appeared that the Football Association had bowed to his demands and agreed to allow him to retain his links with Fulham for 18 months and dictate the terms of his working relationship with Howard Wilkinson, the FA's technical director.

It was thought at first that the English game's governing body would balk at Keegan's determination to combine the uphill struggle of trying to guide England to the 2000 European championship with the task of attaining his dream of guiding Fulham to the FA Carling Premiership next season. When the influential members of the FA's international committee met at a London hotel yesterday, though, it took them only two hours to agree to most of his terms and decide that he should be the successor to Glenn Hoddle. "Progress is being made," was all they would say officially, but it was like the first wisp of white smoke.

United showdown 40
Reid keeps faith 40
Liverpool appeal 40

Sources at the FA said that they were confident a satisfactory *modus operandi* could be arranged so that England got more than enough of Keegan's energy and dynamism, even though he was still involved at Craven Cottage. It is thought that he will compromise by missing some Fulham games so he can watch England players in action in the Premiership. Still, there seems little doubt that Keegan, who is likely to include Peter Beardsley, the former Newcastle United player, among his backroom staff, has got his own way. Not only will he become England's first part-time manager since the Second World War, but he will also have autonomy on the training pitch, too.

There were concerns that the role of Wilkinson, who would like to extend his own power base to include overall control of the national team and the under-21s, would be a hindrance to Keegan's willingness to take over. It seems, though, that Keegan has won assurances from Noel White, the chairman of the international committee, that Wilkinson will not be allowed to sit on the bench at England matches. He will also be told that Bisham Abbey is Keegan's domain during England training sessions and that his presence there will be discouraged.

Some, like Arsène Wenger, the Arsenal coach, had their doubts about the part-time element of the arrangement, but Ruud Gullit, one of Keegan's heirs at Newcastle United, was more positive. "Keegan would be an excellent choice," he said, "but the most difficult part is to be given time. It is the most difficult job there is." Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, was also confident that his former England playing colleague was the right man. "He has got charisma and a good track record," Robson said. "As a player he had lots of enthusiasm for the job and he has taken that into management."

It is a bold step by the FA, a risk but a risk worth taking. Keegan has the dynamism to give England and their supporters an immediate lift for their crucial European championship qualifying tie against Poland at Wembley on March 27, a match England must win if they are to have any realistic hope of making the finals in Holland and Belgium. His skills as a motivator are unparalleled. Even his great rival, Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, admits that.

Terry Venables said yesterday that Kevin Keegan would be a "very, very good appointment" as England coach, but admitted he was disappointed that he had not been officially approached himself. "I think my international career was ruined by maybe one or two people at the FA," he said.

Ferguson speaks with amused awe of the way that Keegan's sheer energy seemed to be propelling Newcastle towards the championship several years ago and he will be able to do the same for his country. Keegan is likely to favour a 4-4-2 system and his appointment is good news for England's flair players, particularly the Real Madrid-bound Steve McManaman, of whom Keegan is a confirmed admirer. It will be a more cavalier England we see from now on, a more aggressive, adventurous England.

The fear, of course, is that Keegan's boldness and what some identify as a certain tactical naivety will be punished by the more clinical, ruthless European sides. There were not many goalless draws in his time in charge at St James' Park, but England supporters will be happy if they start winning games 4-3, not losing them 1-0. There are those, too, who fear that his volatility will quickly ruin his relationship with the media, that his emotional vulnerability to criticism will make him an easy target for the kind of gratuitous criticism that the England job attracts. That much may be true, but if he continues his policy of openness and evenhandedness with the press, then there will be few problems of that sort. Hoddle lost the confidence of both his players and the media because of his predilection for being economical with the truth, for encouraging his players to lie.

Keegan, in contrast, as he reminded people on Sunday, is "an open book". It will, undoubtedly, be a rollercoaster ride, but it is about time that someone tried to sweep supporters away with their enthusiasm at international level before it is too late and club football takes over completely. Keegan has his flaws, but his talent and his reputation, coupled with the respect that the players will have for him, are ample consolation. The fun is about to start.

Looking ahead: Keegan's immediate task will be to revive England's faltering European championship qualifying campaign. Photograph: Dan Chung

Wilkinson and Rees return for national service

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

ENGLAND will take their bow in the final Five Nations Championship with two changes to the side that closed out 1998 with victory over South Africa. David Rees returns on the right wing for the Calcutta Cup match with Scotland at Twickenham on Saturday and Jonathan Wilkinson, still only 19, starts his first championship match at centre and as England's first-choice goalkicker.

It is, in many ways, a second coming for Wilkinson, who was given his first taste of international rugby as a last-minute replacement against Ireland last March before participating in two matches on the ill-fated summer tour of the southern hemisphere — the 76-0 defeat by Australia and the 64-22 defeat by New Zealand. Now Clive Woodward, the England coach, has decided to give him a decent chance of contributing to a winning team against a Scotland squad likely to include Alan Tait, alongside whom Wilkinson played as Newcastle motored powerfully to the Allied Dunbar Premiership title last season.

It is not Wilkinson's preferred position — fly half is where he is likely to make a lasting name for England — but in the absence through injury of Will Greenwood and Phil de Glanville, it is where he is needed.

Woodward has kept faith in nearly all respects with the XV that claimed an historic 13-7 win over South Africa in December. The only unforced change brings back Rees, the Sale wing, for his seventh cap ahead of Tony Underwood, of Newcastle. Rees, 24, dogged by injury in recent times, clinched his place with a good display against Richmond last Sunday.

Wilkinson's recovery from the traumas of the summer tour has been demonstrated by his consistent form for his club, where he has spent the season alternating with Rob Andrew at centre or fly half. Woodward had the option of playing him at fly half but, after an encouraging display by Mike Catt against South Africa, the Bath pivot retains the No 10 jersey with the experienced Paul Grayson having to make do with a place among the replacements.

The combination of Wilkinson with Jeremy Guscott gives England a creative midfield, but lacking the obvious physical presence that has become a feature of modern midfield play.

Some good judges believe Wilkinson will be too lightweight — though not necessarily in the championship — for inside centre and that, long term, he will make the fly half place his own. Woodward might have been tempted, therefore, to go for a genuine No 8 who can drive play close to the set-piece such as Martin Corry, of Leicester, but he has preferred the combination of Lawrence Dallaglio, Neil Back and Richard Hill.

"Wilkinson will also take the pressure off Matt Dawson," Woodward said. "He is a frontline goalkicker and it would have been a big ask for Matt to do what he did against South Africa [when the scrum half kicked the winning goals]. I'm looking forward, anyway, to seeing Matt play scrum half now that Kyran Bracken is back on the bench and back on top of his form."

The only other change is among the replacements, where Neil McCarthy, of Gloucester, displaces Phil Greening.



Wilkinson: consistent

ENGLAND SQUAD

N D Beal (Northampton), D L Rees (Sale), J P Wilkinson (Newcastle), J C Guscott (Bath), D D Luger (Harlequins); M J Catt (Bath), M J S Dawson (Northampton); J Leonard (Harlequins), R Cockerill (Leicester), D J Garforth (Leicester), M O Johnson (Leicester), T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army), L B N Dallaglio (Wasps, captain), N A Back (Leicester), R A Hill (Saracens).
Replacements: K P P Bracken (Saracens), P J Grayson (Northampton), M B Perry (Bath), M E Corry (Leicester), D J Grewcock (Saracens), G C Rowntree (Leicester), N McCarthy (Gloucester).

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TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1643

ACROSS
7 Barter: business (5)
8 Irritable (7)
9 Mollify (7)
10 Regular radiation burst (5)
11 (Ship) arrive: cut short (4)
12 Grape orchard (8)
15 Very productive (8)
16 In low spirits (4)
19 Prop (up) (5)
21 With sharp corners: stiff, bony (7)
22 In, according to, law (7)
23 Madrid art gallery (5)

DOWN
1 A 6: a 19: to 17 (6)
2 A cold Spanish soup (8)
3 Take one's ease (5)
4 Cause puzzlement (7)
5 Young lady (4)
6 Spiral on screw (6)
8 Introductory (11)
13 Danger-over signal (3,5)
14 Luminous beetle (7)
15 Grinding tool, in mortar (6)
17 A colour: explosive signal (6)
18 With mouth open (5)
20 Wild party (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1642
ACROSS: 1 Cavalier 5 Zinc 9 Oblique 10 Panda 11 Edge 12 Payroll 14 Elders 16 Census 19 Meander 21 Hill 24 Round 25 Tobacco 26 Head 27 White lie
DOWN: 1 Clog 2 Valid 3 Liqueur 4 Exempt 6 Igneous 7 Charles I 8 Spey 13 Besmirch 15 Dracula 17 Exhibit 18 Crutch 20 Dodo 22 Local 23 Pore

Dundee considers equation of two becoming one

Phil Gordon on the possibility of a merger between rival Scottish clubs

For a city whose prime tourist attraction is the ship on which Captain James Cook sailed to the New World, Dundee found the analogy of its football teams inescapable yesterday.

The City of Discovery woke up to find that a merger between Dundee and Dundee United had appeared on the horizon and, more important, that the brave new world of Scottish football was not against the idea. Roger Mitchell, the chief executive of the Scottish Premier League (SPL), said yesterday that a union of two of the country's most renowned clubs would be acceptable. What must now be determined is the depth of support within Dundee itself for the idea.

A poll taken by the city's *Evening Telegraph* newspaper said that 58 per cent of the 2,700 people surveyed were in favour of amalgamation. However, Dundee is capable of harbouring fierce tribal loyalty to match any other city. Allegiance to either Dundee or United has split families, but many others feel that Britain's closest football rivalry — their respective grounds, Dens Park (Dundee) and Tannadice (United) are just 170 yards apart — is too claustrophobic.

Both clubs would have different aspirations from any merger, but the unifying attraction is greater capital and a larger potential audience in a city of 180,000 people.

United are becalmed after a successful decade in the 1980s that saw them intrude on the preserve of larger clubs at home and abroad. They won the Premier League title in 1983, reached the European Cup semi-finals the next year and were beaten Uefa Cup finalists in 1987.

Dundee, though, are sinking fast. Once they were the city's pre-eminent team, winning the first division title in 1962 and reaching the semi-finals of the European Cup the next season, but subsequent failure saw their support dwindle. A return to the Premier League this season has failed to lure fans back, prompting Peter Marr, the Dundee chief executive and one of the owners of the club, to suggest a possible merger.

"We had hoped for 6,000 Dundee fans to turn up regularly this season, but we are only getting half of that. We cannot go on like this," he said. "Football is a business and mergers happen in business. If there is a feeling that this is the way ahead, we could well decide to ask for talks with United."

A Dundee United spokesman said: "We would be happy to meet Peter Marr and discuss anything. There is good co-operation between the clubs, but talk of an amalgamation at this time is pure speculation."

Marr has spent around £1 million keeping the club afloat since taking it over two years ago, but the prospect of completing urgent work on the ground — which could cost another £3 million — to comply with SPL demands has forced him to consider a coalition. The SPL will accommodate such a bold move, but will not countenance any ground-sharing at Tannadice.

It is not the first time in recent years that Scottish football has considered the idea of such an association. When Wallace Mercer, the Heart of Midlothian chairman, tried to join forces with Hibernian in 1990, the supporters of the respective clubs protested and the idea was aborted.

In 1994, Inverness Caley and Inverness Thistle merged to become Inverness Caledonian Thistle. Ill-feeling between fans of the rival clubs was not eased until the move to a new stadium in 1997. Now the team, backed by support of 3,000, looks certain to win promotion to the first division.

Billy Dodds, the Dundee United striker, who has also played for Dundee, is not sure that the experiment would work on Tayside. "If a merger goes ahead, I can see a lot of unhappy people in this city," he said. "No one wants to see anyone go to the wall. But there is a lot of tradition which will stand in the way of the clubs coming together."

Dens Park and Tannadice are on the same street and separated by just 170 yards



